**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR MR. TOM LEE, PRINCIPAL OF JAMES B. EDWARDS ELEMENTARY IN MOUNT PLEASANT, SOUTH CAROLINA, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AND TO EXTEND BEST WISHES FOR MUCH SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, Mr. Sam Thomas (Tom) Lee, for over twenty-seven years, has filled the post of principal of James B. Edwards Elementary (JBE) School in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina with dignity and excellence; and

Whereas, since JBE opened in the fall of 1981, Mr. Lee has been the only principal JBE has ever known; and

Whereas, James B. Edwards Elementary School opened its doors with only seven classrooms being utilized for grades 1 and 2 and construction was still underway when the school opened; and

Whereas, the overcrowded conditions at Whitesides Elementary resulted in the construction of James B. Edwards Elementary. Construction was completed in the spring of 1982, and the remainder of the school’s population moved into its new building at that time; and

Whereas, shortly after he became principal, the Profoundly Mentally Disabled (PMD) program was implemented and he worked with Children’s Charities and parent donations to erect the first barrier free handicapped playground; and

Whereas, the population of students at JBE increased from 325 to 1050 students in 1990, and part of the school was rezoned to Belle Hall Elementary. The school’s population has remained around 700 students since 1990; and

Whereas, when JBE opened, Mr. Lee engaged the local African-American families for a multi-cultural exhibit at JBE via the media center and the African-American families provided a sweet grass display that is still there today; and

Whereas, the faculty is made up of over forty certified teachers with the majority holding advanced degrees and nearly fifteen percent of the teachers at James B. Edwards are Nationally Board Certified; and

Whereas, James B. Edwards has received several recognition awards over the years that include Palmetto’s Finest Award, Inviting School Award, S.C. Exemplary Writing Award (1993‑1996), Environmental School of the Year (1992‑1993), S.C. Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association, Award of Excellence for Web page (1997 & 2000), Phoenix Award for Excellence in Conservation and Environmental Programs for Students (1998‑1999), S.C. State Board of Education Volunteer Award (2000), Showcase Technology School (2002‑present), Centurion Award (2004), and Palmetto Gold Award winner (2002‑03, 2003‑04, 2004‑05, 2005‑06); and

Whereas, in preparation for his career as an educator, Mr. Lee earned degrees from Charleston Southern University, College of Charleston, and The Citadel. In his spare time he enjoys fishing, hunting, horseback riding, duck and bird taxidermy, and cutting six acres of grass. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the Senate, by this resolution, honor Mr. Tom Lee upon the occasion of his retirement and extend best wishes for much success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mr. Tom Lee.

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