**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO DECLARE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2009, SOUTH CAROLINA REALTOR DAY IN ORDER TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE MANY OUTSTANDING REALTORS AND REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS IN OUR STATE.

Whereas, a healthy and happy society must fulfill the desires and aspirations of the majority of its members while protecting the rights of each of its individual entities; and

Whereas, our citizens desire to live in communities where the wonders of our Creator are shaped and preserved and where the prosperity of the members of the society, as well as the animal and plant life indigenous to the environment, is protected and nurtured; and

Whereas, our society has been established and maintained and has prospered based on a recognition of the rights of each individual member, many of the most important of these rights being codified in our nation’s Bill of Rights; and

Whereas, our forefathers found it prudent and wise to ensure the protection of an individual’s property rights by establishing these rights in both the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution; and

Whereas, homeownership provides a sense of security for South Carolina families and their children and results in better education, more secure neighborhoods, and a better quality of life for our children; and

Whereas, the purchase of a home for most South Carolinians is the single largest investment they will ever make; and

Whereas, all families in South Carolina regardless of race, color, religion, gender, handicap, familial status, or national origin should have the opportunity to pursue the American dream of homeownership; and

Whereas, housing affordability and choices should be market driven, based on the principles of free enterprise, so the American dream of homeownership can be protected and preserved for future generations of South Carolinians; and

Whereas, South Carolina REALTORS is an association with nearly twenty‑two thousand members and twenty‑two local associations throughout the State; and

Whereas, the members of South Carolina REALTORS provide diverse and specialized services in South Carolina in the purchase, sale, leasing, or appraisal of real property, including residential, commercial, industrial, retail development, consulting services, estates, foreclosures, international affairs, investments, luxury homes, property management, and property rehabilitation; and

Whereas, in addition to the unmatched array of member programs, products, and services that South Carolina REALTORS provides to its members, the association also provides critical real estate continuing education resources to real estate professionals in South Carolina through its Graduate Realtor Institute Program; and

Whereas, South Carolina REALTORS has for many years developed and distributed uniform lease and other common real estate forms that are used and relied on by realtors in South Carolina; and

Whereas, beyond the services it provides to its members and real estate professionals, South Carolina REALTORS has taken public‑interest positions on local, regional, state, and federal issues relating to the protection of consumers and the real estate industry, including private‑property rights, seller disclosure initiatives, and undue taxation; and

Whereas, South Carolina REALTORS and its members are truly the keepers of the American dream of homeownership. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, declare Tuesday, February 24, 2009, South Carolina Realtor Day in order to recognize and honor the many outstanding realtors and real estate professionals in our State.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Richard Berger, 2009 president of South Carolina REALTORS.

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