**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE BOB SHUMAKER, OF GREENVILLE COUNTY, AUTHOR OF “THE SCHMOONEY TRILOGIES”, A CHILDREN’S BOOK SERIES FEATURING A LOVEABLE MAIN CHARACTER KNOWN AS THE SCHMOONEY WHO LEADS CHILDREN ON REMARKABLE ADVENTURES, TO COMMEND HIM FOR HIS DEDICATION TO IMPROVING READING SKILLS AND LITERACY ACROSS THE PALMETTO STATE, AND TO DECLARE THE SCHMOONEY THE HONORARY MASCOT FOR LITERACY IN SOUTH CAROLINA FOR 2009‑2010.

Whereas, South Carolina has a statewide adult illiteracy rate of approximately 14.7 percent, with individual county rates ranging from 29 percent to 10.25 percent; and

Whereas, the Palmetto State has made progress in its fight against illiteracy in recent years and, as a result, the percentage of South Carolina adults who lack basic literacy skills shrank by one‑fourth between 1992 and 2003. The percentage of Palmetto State adults unable to read and understand written information in English improved from 20 percent to 15 percent during this period; and

Whereas, a literate population is critical for developing an educated workforce and strengthening the State’s economy; and

Whereas, promoting literacy not only serves the State, but also potentially may impact and improve the quality of life for those who are held back personally and economically due to illiteracy; and

Whereas, helping develop strong reading skills and instilling a love of reading at an early age helps provide children with a strong foundation for success in school and in life; and

Whereas, capturing the interest of children is often aided by physical symbols, and Bob Shumaker, a retired sales and marketing executive from Greenville, has created a unique symbol for reading, the Schmooney, the main character in “The Schmooney Trilogies”, a children’s series written by Mr. Shumaker; and

Whereas, the Schmooney, a creature made up of seven different animals, is not only a storybook hero, but also a soft cuddly stuffed animal that is fast becoming an endearing symbol that entices children to read; and

Whereas, Mr. Schumaker has developed and made available Schmooney Programs to communities, schools, churches, and libraries, and through these programs the Schmooney helps increase children’s interest in reading, improves vocabulary and social interaction skills, and increases knowledge of nature and civic responsibilities. 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, recognize Bob Shumaker, of Greenville County, author of “The Schmooney Trilogies”, a children’s book series in which the endearing main character, the Schmooney, takes children on wonderful adventures, commend him for his dedication to helping improve reading skills and literacy across the State, and declare the Schmooney the honorary mascot for literacy in South Carolina for 2009‑2010.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Bob Shumaker.

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