**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND MR. MODIE RISHER, SR., OF CHARLESTON, FOR HIS ACHIEVEMENTS AS AN EDUCATOR AND COACH, TO CONGRATULATE HIM ON THE OCCASION OF HIS EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY, AND TO WISH HIM MUCH HAPPINESS IN THE COMING YEARS.

Whereas, it is with great pleasure that the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives honor individuals who freely give of their time and resources for the good of others; and

Whereas, Mr. Modie Risher, Sr., of Charleston, an exemplary educator and coach for many years in his community, stands high among their number, much admired for his dedicated work among the youth of the Charleston area; and

Whereas, born September 6, 1928, Modie Risher graduated in 1946 from Burke High School, where he was a popular and skillful three‑sport athlete. Continuing his athletic career in college, he played for Allen University while earning his bachelor’s degree, later taking his master’s degree at Columbia University in New York City. In time, he also completed thirty hours’ postgraduate work at The Citadel; and

Whereas, he played professional baseball in the old Negro Baseball League for the Jacksonville Eagles and other teams against such legendary players as Satchel Paige, Josh Gibson, and Jackie Robinson; and

Whereas, as an educator for thirty‑three years at Burke High School, his alma mater, he taught health and physical education, as well as creative dance and gymnastics. This perpetually winning coach served as athletic director, department chair, consultant, and school evaluator for the South Carolina State Department of Education, and member of the curriculum‑guide writing team for Charleston County Schools’ health and physical education teachers; and

Whereas, putting his considerable expertise to good use beyond his own school, he served as an official in the South Carolina High School League, Dixie Professional Football League, and Southern College Conference, among other groups, over a span of thirty‑two years; and

Whereas, believing a man should be involved in his community, Mr. Risher joined Charleston’s political life as president and executive committeeman for Charleston County Precinct #13 and was very outspoken on issues concerning the African‑American community. In addition, he volunteered his services to many community organizations such as Jack and Jill of America, and he is president emeritus of the Charleston Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind; and

Whereas, at Morris Brown AME Church, where he receives his spiritual nurture, he has served as junior trustee, director of church recreation, and, from 1994 to 2000, volunteer with the church’s mentoring program at Mitchell Elementary School; and

Whereas, over the years, Coach Risher has received numerous awards and honors for his labors, among them four athletic events and the new Burke High School gymnasium named in his honor, a South Carolina Palmetto Patriot award, and the 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Charleston Metro Sports Council; and

Whereas, on the home front, many years ago he married his beloved DeLaris, the Lord blessing their union with two children, Modie, Jr., and Devonne R. Smalls, as well as two grandchildren, James II and De Ana Smalls; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives also notes that Modie Risher, Sr., celebrated his eightieth birthday on September 6, 2008, and the members are proud to join his family and friends in congratulating this truly gentlemanly South Carolinian on reaching this extraordinary milestone; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives adds further congratulations upon the many expressions of commendation Mr. Risher has received, and still is receiving, for his work as an educator and coach, the fruits of a life filled with service to others. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and commend Mr. Modie Risher, Sr., of Charleston, for his achievements as an educator and coach, congratulate him on the occasion of his eightieth birthday, and wish him much happiness in the coming years.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mr. Modie Risher, Sr.

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