**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE MARK SLADE AVENT OF MARLBORO COUNTY AND TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR HIS MANY AND SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO HIS COMMUNITY AND TO THE PALMETTO STATE.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly are pleased to acknowledge Mark Slade Avent, a son of South Carolina, for his service to his profession and to his community; and

Whereas, born to his loving parents Nancy Lee Slade Avent and Henry E. Avent in Bennettsville on September 9, 1957, Mark Avent has two brothers, Henry E. Avent, Jr., and Barry G. Avent; and

Whereas, after graduating from Clemson University in 1980 with a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial education, he joined the family business, Pepsi‑Cola Bottling Company of Bennettsville, and has worked there ever since, serving currently as president of the company; and

Whereas, he married his beloved wife Jimmy Carol Todd in 1988, and together they have raised three fine sons, Kirkham B. Avent and Hammond L. Avent, twins, and Mark Slade Avent, Jr.; and

Whereas, a lifetime member of Saint Paul’s Episcopal Church in Bennettsville, he has served his church family as a member of the vestry, as a junior warden, and as a senior warden, as well as on the ministerial search committee; and

Whereas, in 1996, he began his present service on the board of directors for Care Resources, Incorporated, a nonprofit organization that assists recovering families in crisis; and

Whereas, since 1993, he has served on the Carolina Canners Board of Directors; from 1993 to 1995, he served as the chairman of Carolina Pepsi‑Cola Bottlers; and in 1995, he sat on the marketing committee for Pepsi‑Cola Bottlers Association; and

Whereas, since 1983 Mark Avent has been a member of the Rotary Club of Bennettsville, has served on its board, and was named a Paul Harris Fellow; he also served as president of the Chamber of Commerce of Marlboro County from 1985 to 1986; and from 1997 to 2000, he served on the Marlboro County Economic Development Partnership as a member of the original board; and

Whereas, local endeavors that have benefitted from his on‑going support include Hospice of Marlboro and Chesterfield Counties, the March of Dimes, the American Cancer Society, and Boys and Girls Clubs; and

Whereas, his generous and fervent assistance encompasses a myriad of public endeavors within his beloved Marlboro County, such as local recreation departments, public schools, and the Marian Wright Edelman Public Library project; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly expresses profound gratitude for the excellent example that Mark Avent has embodied in both his professional and community endeavors and wishes him continued success. 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, honor and recognize Mark Slade Avent of Marlboro County and express appreciation for his many and significant contributions to his community and to the Palmetto State.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mark Slade Avent.

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