**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND WALTER E. “PETE” BROOKER OF BAMBERG COUNTY FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE, AND TO CONGRATULATE HIM ON BEING AWARDED THE SOUTH CAROLINA ORDER OF THE PALMETTO.

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 welfare of this great State’s citizenry; and

Whereas, Walter E. “Pete” Brooker of Bamberg County stands among their number as an outstanding public benefactor, one much admired for his many years of service to his community, his county, his State, and his country; and

Whereas, crediting his mother’s influence as the earliest and most important in his life, Mr. Brooker answered the call of his country to serve in the United States Army 88th Infantry in World War II, during which he saw combat duty in both Africa and Europe and was awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, and the Combat Infantry Badge; and

Whereas, in addition, he helped organize the Bamberg County unit of the South Carolina National Guard and became its first commanding officer, retiring with the rank of lieutenant colonel; and

Whereas, mayor of Denmark from 1957 to 1978, Mr. Brooker served on the Highways and Public Transportation Commission as vice chairman and then as chairman for two successive terms. He is the only chairman to have succeeded himself as commissioner; and

Whereas, believing a man should work for the betterment of his community and areas beyond, he has generously given of his time and expertise in serving on a number of boards, including those of Security Federal, South Carolina Bank and Trust, Epworth Children’s Home, Bamberg Hospital and Nursing Center, Denmark Technical College, South Carolina Board of Higher Education, and South Carolina Regional Development; and

Whereas, Mr. Brooker is also still active in the family business and is a member of the Denmark Lions Club and a lifelong member of Bethel Park United Methodist Church; and

Whereas, for his many accomplishments and contributions to this great State, he has received various awards, among them the Economic Ambassador designation for Bamberg County, granted by Governor Mark Sanford; and

Whereas, Governor Sanford, in acknowledgement of Mr. Brooker’s lifetime of selfless service, has also bestowed on him the highest civilian honor awarded by the State of South Carolina, the Order of the Palmetto; and

Whereas, this most recent honor is a fitting tribute to a man with a high dedication to his calling equaling the eminence of the award. 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 Walter E. “Pete” Brooker of Bamberg County for his many years of outstanding public service, and congratulate him on being awarded the South Carolina Order of the Palmetto.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Walter E. “Pete” Brooker.

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