**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR RAY E. CHANDLER, GENERAL COUNSEL TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT, TO THANK HIM FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE, AND TO WISH HIM MUCH FULFILLMENT AND SUCCESS IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, for twenty‑nine years, the South Carolina State Firefighters’ Association has enjoyed the benefit of the dedication, experience, leadership, and legal expertise of Mr. Ray E. Chandler, general counsel to the organization; and

Whereas, in preparation for his life’s work, Mr.Chandler received a bachelor’s degree from The Citadel and his law degree from the University of South Carolina, followed by membership in the South Carolina Bar Association and the Clarendon County Bar Association; and

Whereas, in 1980, the South Carolina State Firefighters’ Association offered the position of general counsel to Mr. Chandler. Since that time he has given hundreds of hours of service every year to this State through aid to its more than five hundred thirty fire departments. He has used his legal wisdom and skill to support twenty‑nine different presidents of the association and countless individuals. For the benefit of all state firefighters, he has overseen the development of a retirement system that now is valued at thirty‑two million dollars. In addition to a number of other achievements, Mr. Chandler was instrumental in the development and proper use of funds for a successful firefighters’ endowment that provides scholarships and burn‑foundation assistance to firefighters across the State; and

Whereas, he has used his knowledge to define a culture for the South Carolina fire service and has broadened the availability and resources of many volunteer services in training, education, financial management, and prudent decision making. These and other accomplishments of Mr. Chandler’s have ensured that more than ten million dollars annually is used effectively by the fire service; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives has learned with regret that Ray E. Chandler will retire on July 18, 2009. Grateful for his many years of faithfulness in serving the citizens of South Carolina, the members wish him all the best and hope he will find much enjoyment in the more restful days ahead. 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 honor Ray E. Chandler, general counsel to the South Carolina State Firefighters Association, upon the occasion of his retirement, thank him for his many years of outstanding service, and wish him much fulfillment and success in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Ray E. Chandler.

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