**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR JOSEPH PLEDGER HODGES OF MARLBORO COUNTY UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROBATION, PAROLE AND PARDON SERVICES BOARD, TO COMMEND HIM FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE, AND TO OFFER HIM BEST WISHES FOR THE FUTURE.

Whereas, for twenty‑three years, the South Carolina Probation, Parole and Pardon Services Board has richly benefited from the steadfast dedication, seasoned experience, and devoted friendship of Joseph Pledeger “J.P.” Hodges of Bennettsville, a member of the board since his appointment by Governor Carroll A. Campbell, Jr., in 1986; and

Whereas, Mr. Hodges retires from the board as likely one of the longest serving members of a state probation, parole and pardon board in the nation, having served under Governor Campbell, Governor David M. Beasley, Governor James H. Hodges, and Governor Marshall C. Sanford, III; and

Whereas, a proud son of Marlboro County, Mr. Hodges was born at home in the Brownsville community on New Year’s Day in 1921 to the late Kenneth Boyd Hodges and Mary Bessie Stackhouse Hodges. He temporarily left Marlboro County in 1938 to attend his beloved Clemson University, graduating from that distinguished institution in 1942 with a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural agronomy; and

Whereas, his plan to return to Marlboro County was delayed by the call of his nation to serve in World War II. Mr. Hodges patriotically answered the call, serving in the United States Army from 1942 through 1945 in the Pacific Theatre, where he received a battlefield promotion from First Lieutenant to Captain and was recognized for his bravery with the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart awards; and

Whereas, in 1946, Mr. Hodges returned to Marlboro County after the war ended to begin his farming career, but he did not return alone, bringing with him his cherished new bride, the former Grace Virginia Smythe of Forth Worth, Texas; and

Whereas, in the coming decades, Mr. and Mrs. Hodges began a family that grew to include their son, the late Joseph Pledger Hodges, Jr., and his wife, Beverly Fletcher Hodges; daughters Patricia Hodges Clark and Kay Boyd Hodges McCarley, and their respective spouses, William E. Clark, Jr., and Robert J. McCarley, III. The Hodges are also the proud grandparents of Beverly Reagan Hodges, Courtney Carol Hodges, Joseph Pledger Hodges, IV, Ginna Hodges Clark, Charles Winfield Clark, II, Robert Jackson McCarley, IV, and his wife, Martha Ann Roddey McCarley, and Grace Elizabeth McCarley Cook, and her husband, William Joseph Cook. Several of Mr. Hodges’ descendants continued a proud family tradition by following his path to Clemson University; and

Whereas, in addition to his family and farming obligations, Mr. Hodges fulfilled his civic duty by serving as a member of the local Soil and Water Conservation Board for over fifty years, a member of the Marlboro County Rotary Club, a member of the First United Methodist Church of Bennettsville, a member of the Farm Bureau State Board’s executive committee, and as a member of the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service’s state board, where he served as chairman at the appointment of U.S. Senator J. Strom Thurmond; and

Whereas, the General Assembly is saddened to learn Mr. Hodges is retiring from the Probation, Parole and Pardon Services Board after twenty‑three years of exemplary service, but knows he will enjoy having additional time to devote to his family, farm, and community. 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 and honor Joseph Pledger Hodges of Marlboro County upon the occasion of his retirement from the South Carolina Probation, Parole and Pardon Services Board, commend him for his many years of public service, and offer him best wishes for the future.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Joseph Pledger Hodges.

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