**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE SARAH CRAIG “SALLY” ALDRIDGE OF RICHLAND COUNTY UPON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT, TO COMMEND HER FOR HER FORTY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE AS AN EDUCATOR, AND TO WISH HER MUCH HAPPINESS AND FULFILLMENT IN ALL HER FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, it is with great pleasure that the South Carolina House of Representatives honors those individuals who give tirelessly of themselves to the welfare of this great State’s most important legacy, its children; and

Whereas, Columbia’s Sarah Craig “Sally” Aldridge, retiring after forty fruitful years as a classroom teacher, stands among their number as an outstanding public benefactor, one much admired in her role as both educator and community leader; and

Whereas, young Sally received her early teacher training at Winthrop University, finishing with a degree in education. Further preparation for her calling followed at the University of South Carolina, where she earned a graduate degree in guidance and counseling and completed many hours of additional graduate work in mathematics; and

Whereas, in 1969, an eager first‑year teacher, she began her work as an educator with an assignment at Heyward Gibbes Middle School in Columbia. In 2000, at Fulmer Middle School in West Columbia, Sally concluded an honored public school teaching career of thirty‑one years, after which she embarked on a new chapter in her vocation, nearly a decade of teaching mathematics at Columbia’s Hammond School; and

Whereas, long acknowledged as a master teacher, Sally Aldridge received public recognition of that mastery when she was named District Teacher of the Year for Lexington County School District Two and State Teacher of the Year for the American Legion; and

Whereas, always seeking ways to serve, Sally has not limited herself to fostering children in the classroom. During her husband’s tenure as pastor of Greenlawn Baptist Church in Columbia, she led the church’s Emily Lee Mission Group to begin the Veterans Spouse House, a home‑away‑from‑home for women whose husbands are hospitalized at the nearby Veterans Administration Hospital; and

Whereas, in addition, she helped start Young Life in Columbia and served as a Sunday School teacher for many years at First Baptist Church of Batesburg and Greenlawn Baptist Church. She presently serves as a deacon and member of the Leadership Council at Kathwood Baptist Church in Columbia and continues to invest countless hours working with teenagers in the community, especially as a tutor; and

Whereas, on the home front, Sally Aldridge and her husband, Marion, raised a fine family of two children, daughter Jenna, who has given her parents the joy of a grandson, Lake, and daughter Julie, who recently has given the entire family the pleasure of anticipating a wedding scheduled for next summer; and

Whereas, during Sally’s well‑earned retirement, the House trusts she will find herself more frequently out in the yard feeding her birds, in her sewing room stitching beautiful creations for family and friends, and in the kitchen indulging her love for cooking; and

Whereas, having set the bar of achievement high in her profession, Sally Aldridge will be remembered with affection and gratitude by colleagues, students, parents, and legislative friends for years to come. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate Sarah Craig “Sally” Aldridge of Richland County upon the occasion of her retirement, commend her for her forty years of dedicated service as an educator, and wish her much happiness and fulfillment in all her future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Sally Aldridge.

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