**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE PALMETTO HEALTH HOSPICE ON THE OCCASION OF ITS THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF CARING, COMPASSIONATE SERVICE TO SOUTH CAROLINA PATIENTS AND FAMILIES AND TO ENCOURAGE CITIZENS TO INCREASE THEIR AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE AND AVAILABILITY OF HOSPICE SERVICES AND TO OBSERVE THIS OCCASION WITH APPROPRIATE ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS.

Whereas, 2009 marks the thirtieth anniversary of the establishment of Palmetto Health Hospice, which was the first licensed hospice in South Carolina; and

Whereas, Palmetto Health Hospice is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, licensed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, certified by Medicaid and Medicare, a member of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, and a member of the Carolinas Center for Hospice and Palliative Care; and

Whereas, each year, approximately two thousand patients within twenty‑two counties in South Carolina receive end of life care from Palmetto Health Hospice; and

Whereas, hospice care allows patients and families to receive professional medical services, pain and symptom control, and emotional and spiritual support, in their home of choice; and

Whereas, hospice creates a compassionate atmosphere where patients are able to die with dignity, wherever they call home, surrounded and supported by loved ones, familiar friends, and committed caregivers; and

Whereas, professional and compassionate hospice staff and volunteers, including physicians, nurses, social workers, therapists, and clergy provide comprehensive care and attend to the particular needs and wishes of each patient, and family members and friends also receive counseling and bereavement care that helps them cope with the loss of loved ones; and

Whereas, providing high quality hospice care reaffirms our belief in the essential dignity of every person, regardless of age, health, or social status, and that every stage of human life deserves to be treated with the utmost respect and care; and

Whereas, the observance of Palmetto Health Hospice’s thirtieth anniversary is an opportunity to recognize the professionals, volunteers, and family caregivers who take on the challenge of caring for patients at the end of life. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and congratulate Palmetto Health Hospice on the occasion of its thirtieth anniversary of caring, compassionate service to South Carolina patients and families and encourage citizens to increase their awareness of the importance and availability of hospice services and observe this occasion with appropriate activities and programs.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Palmetto Health Hospice.

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