**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE A.C. FLORA HIGH SCHOOL OF RICHLAND COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE UPON THE OCCASION OF ITS FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY, TO COMMEND THE SCHOOL ON ITS MANY ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE PAST HALF CENTURY, AND TO WISH ITS STUDENTS, FACULTY, ADMINISTRATORS, AND ALUMNI WELL AS THEY CONTINUE TO HOLD HIGH THE FOUNDING STANDARDS OF A.C. FLORA HIGH SCHOOL.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives notes with pleasure that A.C. Flora High School of Richland County School District One celebrates its fiftieth anniversary this year; and

Whereas, when it first opened in 1959, A.C. Flora was intended to be a neighborhood school that served tenth‑ through twelfth‑grade students in the Forest Acres community. Flora’s early years were triumphant ones in which the school reached ultimate success in several areas, from academics to sports. For many years, Flora produced the largest number of National Merit scholars in all of the Southeast; and

Whereas, the school’s name derives from the late Dr. A.C. Flora, an educator and administrator in the Columbia area and president of the National Education Association, whose philosophy of balancing academics and extracurricular activities still prevails today; and

Whereas, in its early years, the finest of Columbia’s educators stood at Flora’s helm and helped lay a strong foundation for the school. J.K. Blume, the first principal, greatly expanded the curriculum and proved himself an able and innovative administrator; and

Whereas, during the nineteen seventies and eighties, the school matured into a socioeconomically diverse, vibrant institution that remains so today; and

Whereas, over its half century of educating young people, A.C. Flora High School has produced outstanding homemakers, educators, military personnel, physicians, and many others who have made significant contributions to their communities, State, and nation. Among its more famous alumni are Rebecca Wesson Darwin, former publisher of the *New Yorker* magazine and current publisher of *Garden and Gun*, and the late Lee Atwater, former chairman of the National Republican Party; and

Whereas, now nationally accredited, the school is poised to move into the future with the opening of its new facilities, including an expansive competition gym and impressive performing arts theatre; and

Whereas, in recognition of the school’s half‑century mark, an all‑class reunion, the A.C. Flora 50th Celebration All‑Star Evening, will be held on March 26, 2010, hosted by the Honorable Joan Brady, the Honorable Frank Brunson, the Honorable Vince Ford, and the Honorable Gene Sealy; and

Whereas, in addition, the school will hold various commemorative events all year long; and

Whereas, grateful for the contributions of A.C. Flora High School toward the education of South Carolina’s most precious resource, its youth, the House is pleased to congratulate the A.C. Flora Falcons on reaching this golden milestone. The members also look to see continually fulfilled the confident affirmation contained in the school’s alma mater, “Higher, higher flies the falcon, soaring through the joyful days.” Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate A.C. Flora High School of Richland County School District One upon the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary, commend the school on its many achievements over the past half century, and wish its students, faculty, administrators, and alumni well as they continue to hold high the founding standards of A.C. Flora High School.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Richard McClure of A.C. Flora High School.

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