**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR RIVERSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL IN GREENVILLE COUNTY, AND TO CONGRATULATE THE SCHOOL’S FACULTY, STAFF, STUDENTS, AND PARENTS FOR RECEIVING A 2010 CAROLINA FIRST PALMETTO’S FINEST AWARD.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to learn that Riverside Middle School was one of four schools to receive the coveted and well deserved Carolina First Palmetto’s Finest Award for 2010; and

Whereas, located on Hammett Bridge Road in the Upstate town of Greer, Riverside meets the academic needs of over a thousand students in the three middle‑school grades; and

Whereas, in operation only since 1999, the school’s academic program has swelled with excellence, mirroring the rapid growth in the eastern corner of the county; and

Whereas, Riverside has been a finalist for the Carolina First Palmetto’s Finest award numerous times and has been named an Exemplary Writing School for the last ten years and the 2005‑2006 Carl Sandberg poetry contest winner; and

Whereas, attracting a broad variety of awards, Riverside Middle School has not only excelled in math and music competitions, but the school was also the first one in the district to offer a cheerleading squad for the trainable mentally disabled (TMD) program, which took the state’s gold medal, and the boys’ soccer team won the 2009 district championship; and

Whereas, many programs have set Riverside apart as a school of excellence, such as the student‑centered character‑education program that tackles developmental issues and ethical questions of middle school students, the anticipated and competitive spring “poetry slam” that gives a public face to poetry recitation and dramatic interpretation, and the Academic Intervention Counseling Group that offers support to eighth graders at risk of failure; and

Whereas, some twenty‑five schools are nominated from across the State annually to compete for the Carolina First Palmetto’s Finest honor, and this year thirteen finalists participated in the rigorous second round for the top award; and

Whereas, committee members for the award selection include SCASA principals from each of South Carolina’s congressional districts, an assistant principal, and a representative from the Governor’s Office and from higher education; and

Whereas, since 1996, Carolina First Bank has partnered with the South Carolina Association of School Administrators (SCASA) to award the top elementary, middle, and high schools in the State based on their student development and achievement, instructional techniques and evaluations, school facilities and management, teacher and administrative staff in‑service and leadership, and community support; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives appreciate the high standard that Riverside Middle School faculty and staff, students and parents have set for our State and are grateful for the pride and recognition that they have brought to their school and their community. 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 Riverside Middle School in Greenville County, and congratulate the school’s faculty, staff, students, and parents for receiving a 2010 Carolina First Palmetto’s Finest Award.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Ron Harrison.

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