**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE MELVIN SMOAK, SUPERINTENDENT OF ORANGEBURG CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT FIVE, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT, AND TO WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly are pleased to learn that Melvin Smoak will begin a much deserved retirement from Orangeburg Consolidated School District Five where he has faithfully served the students of his district during a remarkable and distinguished career; and

Whereas, a graduate of John Ford High School in St. Matthews, Melvin Smoak earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from South Carolina State College in 1973 and a master’s degree in educational administration in 1974; and

Whereas, in 1974 he began his long and outstanding career as an educator teaching mathematics, and he served as assistant principal and in‑school suspension coordinator at Nix Elementary School in 1976; and

Whereas, in 1977, he started teaching mathematics at Orangeburg‑Wilkinson High School and became the school’s assistant principal in 1980 and began serving there as principal in 1986; and

Whereas, he pursued further studies in education at various schools, including Cornell University in 1985 and Winthrop College in 1986; and

Whereas, featured in an international documentary entitled *I Can Change the World*, Mr. Smoak gained notoriety for the academic success he facilitated in Orangeburg and was highlighted in two cover stories for *Newsweek* magazine in 1988; and

Whereas, he joined Orangeburg School District Five in 1988 and served first as assistant superintendent for schools and then as the assistant superintendent for administrative and academic affairs until 1997; and

Whereas, when the district consolidated in 1997, Mr. Smoak remained with the district as an assistant superintendent for administration and student affairs, and in 1999, he became superintendent for the Orangeburg Consolidated School District Five; and

Whereas, active in numerous civic and professional organizations, he received the Orangeburg Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Men “Man of the Year” award and the South Carolina State University Distinguished Alumnus Award; and

Whereas, a dedicated member of New Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Mr. Smoak is married to the former Leone Deloris Williams, and together they raised two fine children, Carlita Shenell and Lee Marvin; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly are grateful for the significant impact that Melvin Smoak has had on students in our State and are pleased to learn that after thirty‑seven years of outstanding educational service he will be enjoying his retirement. 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, honor and recognize Melvin Smoak, superintendent of Orangeburg Consolidated School District Five, upon the occasion of his retirement, and wish him continued success in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Melvin Smoak.

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