**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO COMMEND THE HONORABLE REX FONTAINE RICE OF PICKENS COUNTY FOR SIXTEEN YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE AS A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND TO WISH HIM SUCCESS IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS AS HE DEPARTS THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO PURSUE OTHER OPPORTUNITIES AS AN ELECTED PUBLIC OFFICIAL.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives learned with sincere regret that Rex Fontaine Rice will retire from the House of Representatives at the conclusion of his current term to pursue other opportunities as an elected public official; and

Whereas, Representative Rice has represented the citizens of House District 26 for sixteen years and has served recently as the vice chair of the Operations and Management Committee and as the second vice chair of the Ways and Means Committee of the South Carolina House of Representatives; and

Whereas, as a committed fiscal conservative, Rex Rice has always treated the expenditure of state and public funds just like he treats his own funds; with care, caution and a sense that public funds should be used to better the lives and opportunities of the citizens of South Carolina and achieve the best value for the taxpayer’s dollar; and

Whereas, throughout his tenure in the House, he has fought for a better and more efficient state government through his sponsorship of comprehensive sunset review legislation among his other better government initiatives. He also was the author and lead sponsor of the legislation establishing the South Carolina Virtual School Program, and for years was a leader in the fight to raise the cigarette tax thereby reducing teenage and other smoking which finally came to fruition this year at the conclusion of his House service; and

Whereas, the son of Claire Fontaine Rice and Frank Towers Rice, he married his lovely wife Ruth Britts in 1982, and they have two fine children, Toni and Meredith; and

Whereas, this calm, dignified and dedicated man in his business and private life built a successful construction company where he used his financial ability and expertise and ability to work with people to become one of the most respected business leaders in his community; and

Whereas, a resident of Easley, Rex Rice has also been an active civic and community leader in his hometown. In addition to his duties as a public official, he is actively involved in the Easley Rotary Club, serves on the advisory board of the Greenville Salvation Army, and is a member of Easley Presbyterian Church; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives will miss the dedication and hard work that Rex Fontaine Rice has brought to the House of Representatives and wish him continued success in his professional and private life as he leaves the House of Representatives. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, commend the Honorable Rex Fontaine Rice of Pickens County for sixteen years of dedicated service as a member of the General Assembly, and wish him success in all his future endeavors as he departs the House of Representatives to pursue other opportunities as an elected public official.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Honorable Rex Fontaine Rice.

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