**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE WENDELL WILBURN, FIRE CHIEF OF THE CITY OF BEAUFORT, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT, TO COMMEND HIM FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE CITY OF BEAUFORT, BEAUFORT COUNTY, AND THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, AND TO WISH HIM MUCH HAPPINESS AND FULFILLMENT IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, it is with great pleasure that the South Carolina General Assembly honors those individuals who give tirelessly of themselves to the welfare and protection of this great State’s citizenry; and

Whereas, Wendell Wilburn, retiring chief of the City of Beaufort Fire Department, stands among their number as an outstanding public servant, one much admired by both colleagues and the public at large for his character, knowledge of firefighting techniques, organization, and management, and his dedication to the preservation of life and property; and

Whereas, from the mid‑1970s to the present day, Chief Wilburn has served the City of Beaufort with distinction in roles ranging from volunteer firefighter to captain, training officer, and, ultimately, chief of the department; and

Whereas, his influence has reached far beyond the local fire station as he has sought to serve his State. He is past president of the South Carolina Firefighters’ Association, past president of the South Carolina State Association of Fire Chiefs, and past president of the Beaufort County Fire Chiefs Association. In addition, he was instrumental in starting the Aluminum Cans for Burned Children program and received a medal of honor for rescuing a downed Port Royal police officer while under fire from a concealed sniper. He fostered a fire‑prevention program that twice has been granted the Richard C. Campbell Award for Excellence in Public Fire Safety Education and has been appointed by several successive Governors to the Firefighter Mobilization Committee; and

Whereas, to recognize Chief Wilburn’s more than three decades of outstanding service, a luncheon will be held in his honor on Thursday, April 9, 2009; and

Whereas, having made his mark and set the bar of achievement extraordinarily high in his profession, Chief Wilburn will be remembered with affection and gratitude by colleagues and legislative friends for years to come. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, congratulate Wendell Wilburn, fire chief of the City of Beaufort, upon the occasion of his retirement, commend him for his many years of dedicated service to the City of Beaufort, Beaufort County, and the State of South Carolina, and wish him much happiness and fulfillment in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Chief Wendell Wilburn.

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