**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO COMMEND MAYOR CHARLIE SWEAT OF WALTERBORO FOR HIS LIFETIME OF DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE, TO CONGRATULATE HIM UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS MAYOR OF WALTERBORO, AND TO WISH HIM MUCH SUCCESS AND FULFILLMENT IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the members of the General Assembly note with appreciation the career of Mayor Charlie Sweat of Walterboro, who will retire in June 2009 after two successful terms as mayor; and

Whereas, seldom has a mayor of Walterboro worked as hard to improve the quality of life and guarantee the future of his city as Charlie Sweat; and

Whereas, no newcomer to elective office, Mayor Sweat’s political career began in 1978 with his election to Walterboro City Council, where he served until 2005, followed by election to his present position as mayor of Walterboro. Other duties have included twenty‑nine years of service as a representative on the Lowcountry Council of Governments, for which he was a three‑time chairman; and

Whereas, believing a man should be fully involved in his community, this native of Walterboro has given freely of his time and expertise to numerous organizations. In the past, he was a member of the Walterboro Jaycees, the Colleton County Alcohol & Drug Abuse Commission, and the Edisto River Basin Task Force. He was also president of the South Carolina Nature Based Tourism Association and a member of the advisory boards of the Medical University of South Carolina Children’s Hospital Fund and the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism; and

Whereas, presently, Mayor Sweat serves as a member of several boards, including those of the Colleton County Rice Festival, Friends of the Edisto, and the Region IV South Carolina National Heritage Corridor. He is chair of both the Colleton County Heritage Corridor Committee and the state board of the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor. In addition, he is a member of the Walterboro‑Colleton Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee, Lowcountry & Resort Islands Tourism Commission, Walterboro’s Great Swamp Sanctuary Committee, and Edisto River Canoe and Kayak Trail Commission. For the American Canoe Association, he finds time to teach canoeing and kayaking; and

Whereas, he has not gone unappreciated for a lifetime of service, having received over the years distinguished service awards from both the Walterboro‑Colleton Chamber of Commerce, which so honored him on two occasions, and the South Carolina Jaycees; and

Whereas, in recognition of Mayor Sweat’s retirement, a celebratory event will be held in his honor on June 23, 2009; and

Whereas, the General Assembly is grateful for the visionary leadership of Mayor Charlie Sweat, and the members take much pleasure in joining with the citizens of Walterboro in extending to him best wishes as he begins a well‑deserved retirement. 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, commend Mayor Charlie Sweat of Walterboro for his lifetime of dedicated public service, congratulate him upon his retirement as mayor of Walterboro, and wish him much success and fulfillment in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mayor Charlie Sweat.

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