**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR MR. JOSEPH R. PYE OF DORCHESTER COUNTY FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND TO CONGRATULATE HIM ON BEING NAMED 2012 SOUTH CAROLINA SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to learn that Mr. Joseph R. Pye has been named 2012 South Carolina Superintendent of the Year by the South Carolina Association of School Administrators; and

Whereas, in preparation for a distinguished career in education, Joe Pye earned a bachelor’s degree at Baptist College of Charleston, a master’s degree in teaching at The Citadel, and a specialist in education degree, also at The Citadel. In addition, he holds an honorary doctorate conferred by Charleston Southern University; and

Whereas, during the early years of his career, beginning in 1970, Mr. Pye served as a classroom teacher. Upon becoming qualified as an administrator, he took up his duties as principal of Flowertown Elementary School in Dorchester School District Two, where he served from 1979 to 1991; and

Whereas, he worked his way through the ranks at Dorchester School District Two from assistant personnel director to personnel director to assistant superintendent and, finally, to superintendent in 1999, a post he has held with distinction since that time; and

Whereas, under his leadership, three district schools have been named Carolina First Palmetto’s Finest, and the Annual School Report Card rating has improved to “Good”; and

Whereas, this thirty‑eight‑year veteran of Dorchester School District Two is respected by all who know him for his integrity and leadership skills, which have allowed the district to excel, despite the challenges of funding issues that face many of South Carolina’s school districts. In recognition of Mr. Pye’s outstanding leadership, the district has named its newest elementary school “Joseph R. Pye Elementary”, and Flowertown Elementary has named its renovated library in his honor; and

Whereas, believing strongly in active involvement in the community, Joe Pye presently holds membership in the Greater Summerville Chamber of Commerce (Workforce Development Committee), Summerville Rotary Club (president for three years), Exchange Club, and Trident Chamber of Commerce (Education Foundation). He also serves with the Communities in Schools of Dorchester County SMARTGirls Program Advisory Committee, The Citadel Education & College of Charleston Advisory Committee, and South Carolina Association of School Superintendents Executive Board. Additionally, he is board chairman for Heritage Trust Federal Credit Union and has served as a Sunday School teacher for thirty‑two years; and

Whereas, Mr. Pye, after the state‑level awards ceremony on June 21, 2011, will represent South Carolina in the National Superintendent of the Year competition, sponsored by the American Association of School Administrators; and

Whereas, the Senate takes great pleasure in recognizing Mr. Joseph R. Pye on his selection as 2012 South Carolina Superintendent of the Year, and the members extend grateful thanks for his many years of dedicated service to the children of South Carolina. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and honor Mr. Joseph R. Pye of Dorchester County for his outstanding contributions to South Carolina public schools and congratulate him on being named 2012 South Carolina Superintendent of the Year.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Mr. Joseph R. Pye.

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