**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO COMMEND THE SPONSORS OF THE NOTHIN’ BUT THE BLUESFEST FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO PROMOTE THE PALMETTO STATE’S RICH MUSICAL HERITAGE, TO ENCOURAGE THE CITIZENS OF SOUTH CAROLINA TO ATTEND THE CELEBRATION, SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 19‑22, 2012, IN THE CLEMSON AREA, AND TO DECLARE APRIL 2012 AS BLUES MONTH IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate is pleased to learn that the Clemson area will host the Nothin’ But the BluesFest, April 19‑22, 2012; and

Whereas, a not‑for‑profit celebration of that Southern musical form called the blues, the Nothin’ But the BluesFest will feature a number of events during its four‑day duration: Thursday, April 19, a VIP Reception and Blues Art Exhibit at the Clemson Arts Center featuring Mac Arnold and Plate Full O’Blues; Friday, April 20, the Blues Arts Exhibit with blues‑themed art for sale and band appearances; Saturday, April 21, An Afternoon of Blues, featuring internationally known bluesman, Chick Willis and his band; Sunday, April 22, a Blues and Gospel Brunch at Boulevard Grill and University Inn with appearances by local singers and bands, followed by a special Gospel and Blues music program with the United Church of Prayer Brass Band; and

Whereas, inspiration for the festival derived from Littlejohn’s Grill, which in its day was the epicenter for black entertainment in Upstate South Carolina and one of those important places where rock ‘n’ roll began. Owned by Horace and Gertrude Littlejohn, the club supplied first‑class entertainment, food, and lodging for travelers and performers touring the Chitlin’ Circuit from the late 1940s until the mid 1960s; and

Whereas, the long and impressive list of jazz and blues celebrities appearing at the club in that day included Ray Charles, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Fats Domino, Little Richard, Otis Redding, comedian Red Foxx, James Brown, and scores of others; and

Whereas, the Senate takes great pleasure in encouraging the people of South Carolina to attend this family‑friendly festival, where all may enjoy hearing some of today’s finest performers as they carry on a time‑honored Southern musical art form. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, commend the sponsors of the Nothin’ But the BluesFest for their efforts to promote the Palmetto State’s rich musical heritage, encourage the citizens of South Carolina to attend the event, scheduled for April 19‑22, 2012, in the Clemson area, and declare April 2012 as Blues Month in South Carolina.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to the Nothin’ But the BluesFest Committee.

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