**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE SHERRI MELLETTE KIRKLAND OF IRMO UPON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT, TO COMMEND HER FOR HER TWENTY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE AS AN EDUCATOR, AND TO WISH HER MUCH HAPPINESS AND FULFILLMENT IN ALL HER FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, it is with great pleasure that the South Carolina House of Representatives honors those individuals who give tirelessly of themselves to the welfare of this great State’s most important legacy, its children; and

Whereas, Irmo’s Sherri Mellette Kirkland, retiring after twenty fruitful years as a coach, stands among their number as an outstanding educator, one much admired in her role as both coach and mentor to young people; and

Whereas, in preparation for her career, Sherri Mellette Kirkland studied at the University of South Carolina, graduating in 1988; and

Whereas, she began her twenty years of service at Columbia High School in 1989, coaching the junior varsity cheerleading squad. From 1990 through 1994, she coached the varsity cheerleading squad at this same institution, moving in 1997 to Dutch Fork High School, where she has served as varsity cheerleading coach to the present day; and

Whereas, Coach Kirkland has been active in her field, serving as a South Carolina Cheer Coaches Association (SCCCA) executive board member from 1992 - 1994, before becoming president‑elect in 1995, and as president from 1996 through 1999. In 2011, Dutch Fork High School established the Sherri M. Kirkland Outstanding Cheerleader of the Year award in her honor; and

Whereas, among her numerous personal awards are 1992 National Coach of the Year finalist; 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010 Region Coach of the Year; and 2000 South Carolina Cheerleading Coach of the Year. She was also granted the 2010 South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association Outstanding Service Award and nominated as 2010 National Federation of State High School Associations National Coach of the Year; and

Whereas, Coach Kirkland’s teams have been extraordinarily successful and have earned a multitude of awards. Her athletes were named 1992 Class AA State Championship runner‑up (Columbia High School); won the 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010 AAAA Region Championship (Dutch Fork High School); and participated in the 1992 (Columbia High School) and 1999 (Dutch Fork High School) Shrine Bowl All‑Star team and the 2001 and 2005 North/South All‑Star team (Dutch Fork High School); and

Whereas, in addition, her teams have won the 1997, 1999, and 2001 Upper State Championship (Dutch Fork High School) and the 1998, 2000, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007 Lower State Championship (Dutch Fork High School); placed as 1998 and 2010 AAAA State Championship runner‑up (Dutch Fork High School); won the 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2003 AAAA State Championship (Dutch Fork High School); and were named 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2003 AAAA State Cheerleaders of the Year (Dutch Fork High School); and

Whereas, having set the bar of achievement high in her field, Sherri Kirkland will be remembered with affection and gratitude by colleagues, students, parents, and legislative friends for years to come. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate Sherri Mellette Kirkland of Irmo upon the occasion of her retirement, commend her for her twenty years of dedicated service as an educator, and wish her much happiness and fulfillment in all her future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Sherri Mellette Kirkland.

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