**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE DANA J. BELL OF LEXINGTON COUNTY UPON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT, TO COMMEND HER FOR HER THIRTY‑SEVEN 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, Columbia’s Dana J. Bell, retiring after thirty‑seven fruitful years as a classroom teacher, stands among their number as an outstanding public benefactor, one much admired in her role as both educator and community leader; and

Whereas, raised in New Mexico, young Dana moved to the Southeast in her early twenties. She received her early teacher training at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, finishing with a degree in elementary education; and

Whereas, further preparation for her calling followed at the University of South Carolina Spartanburg, where she earned a master’s degree in education (reading). She also has completed many hours of additional training and is certified in elementary education, as a reading teacher, and in special education learning disabilities. She has a master’s plus thirty in special education and is endorsed to teach gifted and talented students; and

Whereas, in 1972, an eager first‑year teacher, she began her work at Pleasant Garden Elementary School in Greensboro, North Carolina, followed by Lyon Street Elementary School in Columbia. Dana then became Co‑director of the Learning Foundations of Columbia and subsequently the Program Director at the Columbia YMCA, after which she returned to teaching; and

Whereas, upon returning to the classroom, Mrs. Bell once again shared her passion of teaching children how to read and write, a special gift she possesses that has helped develop and nurture in countless children an interest in reading and in conveying their thoughts and feelings through the written word; and

Whereas, because of her dedication and tireless efforts she has been recognized as “Reading Teacher of the Year” and has received high praise for establishing the annual Writers’ Array celebration to give voice to students’ writing accomplishments; and

Whereas, in 1990 Dana Bell came to Lexington County School District Three to help establish the High School 8 Dropout Prevention Program, where her reading and special education talents helped develop a program to bring students up to grade level and improve their chances for graduating and achieving success. Also during many of her twenty years at Lexington County School District Three, Dana has taught fifth grade language arts, social studies, and gifted education; and

Whereas, although retiring at the end of the present school year, she plans to continue helping students part‑time because teaching is her very first love; and

Whereas, to honor this beloved teacher, her colleagues, students, and many friends plan to recognize her on her retirement with a celebratory event scheduled for Thursday, June 2, 2011; and

Whereas, during Mrs. Bell’s well‑earned retirement, the House trusts she will find herself more frequently traveling and spending time at her second home with her husband of thirty years, Dan, and keeping healthy and fit by workouts at the gym, a practice she has come to love; and

Whereas, having set the bar of achievement high in her profession, Dana Bell 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 Dana J. Bell of Lexington County upon the occasion of her retirement, commend her for her thirty‑seven 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 presented to Dana Bell.

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