**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR DR. ZONA JEFFERSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF SUMTER SCHOOL DISTRICT 17, UPON HER RETIREMENT, TO THANK HER FOR HER THIRTY‑NINE YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE AS AN EDUCATOR, AND TO WISH HER MUCH FULFILLMENT AND SUCCESS IN ALL HER FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, having served her county and State with excellence for many years, Dr. Zona Jefferson will soon be retiring from her post as superintendent of Sumter School District 17; and

Whereas, in preparation for her long career, Dr. Jefferson graduated from Winthrop University with a bachelor’s degree in sociology, followed by a master’s degree in elementary education and a doctorate in educational leadership, both from the University of South Carolina; and

Whereas, Dr. Jefferson began her career in education, all of which was spent in Sumter School District 17, in 1972 as a mathematics teacher. After teaching for twelve years, she served as an assistant principal at Millwood Elementary School and Bates Middle School, after which she took up her duties as principal of Alice Drive Elementary School. Moving to the district level, she served from 1998 to 2002 as assistant superintendent for human resources, becoming superintendent of Sumter School District 17 in 2002; and

Whereas, in addition, Dr. Jefferson has served as a clinical professor with the University of South Carolina, assessor for the South Carolina Department of Education, ADEPT trainer, and mentor to numerous new principals throughout South Carolina; and

Whereas, a strong believer in active community involvement, Dr. Jefferson is a member of Rotary Club of Sumter Sunrise and serves as a board member for BB&T. She is also involved in numerous professional organizations, including the South Carolina Association of School Administrators, Phi Delta Kappa, the Eta Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, the American Association of School Administrators, the National Alliance of Black School Educators, the South Carolina Alliance for Black School Educators, and the Alpha Kappa Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma. She serves on the executive board for the Superintendents’ Division of the South Carolina Association of School Administrators; and

Whereas, in recognition of her work, Zona Jefferson has earned numerous personal and professional honors, among them the prestigious Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award, Dorothy Ford Givens Educator of the Year Award, the Adult Education Superintendent of the Year Award, and the President’s Award from the South Carolina Alliance of Black School Educators; and

Whereas, noting that she and her husband, Joseph, are the proud parents of two adult children and delighted grandparents of three, the House of Representatives trusts Dr. Jefferson will enjoy the more relaxing pace of the retirement days ahead that will allow her to spend more time with the family; and

Whereas, having earned the respect of all those who have had the privilege of working with her, Dr. Zona Jefferson will be remembered with affection and gratitude by colleagues 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, recognize and honor Dr. Zona Jefferson, superintendent of Sumter School District 17, upon her retirement, thank her for her thirty‑nine years of dedicated service as an educator, and wish her much fulfillment and success in all her future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Dr. Zona Jefferson.

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