**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR AND CONGRATULATE MR. JORGE LOPEZ-YAÑEZ FOR AN OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AT THE INAUGURATION OF GOVERNOR NIKKI HALEY AND TO COMMEND HIM AND EXPRESS DEEP APPRECIATION TO HIM FOR HIS DEDICATION TO EXCELLENCE IN MUSICIANSHIP AND HIS SUPPORT OF THE PERFORMING ARTS.

Whereas, on Wednesday, January 12, 2011, at the Inauguration of Governor Nikki Haley on the steps of the State House, international opera tenor Jorge Lopez-Yañez gave an outstanding solo performance of The Star Spangled Banner, the National Anthem of the United States of America; and

Whereas, later in the ceremony Mr. Lopez-Yañez sang “God Bless America” after the Administration of the Oath to the Governor, conducted by Dr. Asaiah McGhee and accompanied by the Claflin College Concert Choir, the South Carolina Governor’s School for the Arts, and the Humanities Chamber and All-School Choirs; and

Whereas, Mr. Lopez‑Yañez, a graduate of the University of Zacatecas in Mexico, he studied music and voice at California State University, Northridge, and at the University of Southern California; and

Whereas, he came to public attention as a finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions in 1986 and as first‑prize winner of the Loren Zachary Competition; and

Whereas, Mr. Lopez‑Yañez has distinguished himself as a leading tenor on operatic stages throughout the world; and

Whereas, a native of Mexico, Mr. Lopez‑Yañez regularly returns to his home country to appear in Mexico City, Monterrey, Guadalajara, Aguascalientes, and Jalapa; and

Whereas, he may be heard on recordings of *Hamlet* released by Sernissima, an album of Mexican Mariachi Music, and in *Ermione*, release on video by NVC Arts; and

Whereas, it is fitting and proper for the members of the Senate to pause in their deliberations to remember the contributions of this great musician who continues to inspire, engage, entertain, and enrich his audience on every level. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the Senate, by this resolution, honor and congratulate Mr. Jorge Lopez-Yañez for an outstanding performance at the Inauguration of Governor Nikki Haley and to commend him and express deep appreciation to him for his dedication to excellence in musicianship and his support of the performing arts.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mr. Jorge Lopez-Yañez.

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