**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR HELEN LOUISE DUCOM MAHON FOR HER SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SUMTER COMMUNITY, AND TO CONGRATULATE HER UPON BEING NAMED TO THE WOMEN’S HONOR ROLL OF SUMTER COUNTY.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to learn that Helen Louise DuCom Mahon was named to Sumter County’s Women’s Honor Roll; and

Whereas, in celebration of Women’s History Month, the Sumter Volunteers, Inc., named Helen Mahon as one of three inductees to the 2012 class of the Women’s Honor Roll for her outstanding contributions to the Sumter community; and

Whereas, the first celebration of Women’s History Week began quietly in 1977 in Sonoma County, California, as an educational project, and by 1981, the United States Congress had passed a resolution to recognize National Women’s History Week; and

Whereas, as national recognition of women’s contributions to history and accomplishments in American culture increased, the United States Congress expanded the celebration to a month; and

Whereas, since 1991, Sumter has observed the celebration under the auspices of the YWCA of the Upper Lowlands, and in 1993, Sumter Volunteers established The Women’s Honor Roll to honor women who had made significant contributions to its history; and

Whereas, this year’s class brought the total number of the Sumter honorees to ninety‑nine and included Helen Mahon, a retired elementary school teacher; and

Whereas, a Sumter native, she is the daughter of Edward Louis and Gladys Oliver DuCom, and she graduated from Edmunds High School in Sumter in 1944 and studied at Winthrop University; and

Whereas, in 1946, she married her beloved husband, Robert Thomas Mahon, and they moved to Long Island, New York, where together they reared three fine children: Robert, Irene, and Julia, who blessed them with three grandchildren and nine great‑grandchildren; and

Whereas, she entered Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York in 1955 and earned a bachelor’s in elementary education and later a master’s degree in the same from New York University in Southampton, New York; and

Whereas, for twenty‑seven years, Mrs. Mahon taught early primary grades in Long Island schools, and in 1982, the Mahons retired to Sumter where she became a substitute teacher and then served as a teacher for five years at Alice Drive Elementary School; and

Whereas, a devoted member of St. Jude Catholic Church, she served as a volunteer teaching reading and as the school board president of St. Jude Elementary School before it closed and as a volunteer with the Literacy Center, teaching reading and English as a second language; and

Whereas, a thirty‑year member of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR), she frequently visits community schools and dons her period costume to educate youth about historical events, patriotism, and our national flag; and

Whereas, with five women from the NSDAR Sumter chapter, she taught the Revolutionary War period to fourth graders for several years in My Community and Me of Sumter’s Volunteers, Inc.; and

Whereas, she has served the NSDAR as the regent of the Sumter chapter and as the state organization’s district director, state literacy chairwoman, Americanism chairwoman, and Constitution Week chairwoman, and she is currently the historian of the Palmetto State Club and has chaired Constitution Week in Sumter for twenty‑two years; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives appreciate the work of the Sumter Volunteers, Inc., for identifying and honoring outstanding women in the community, and they are grateful for the example and years of dedicated service that Helen Louise DuCom Mahon has given in Sumter County. 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 Helen Louise DuCom Mahon for her significant contributions to the Sumter community, and congratulate her upon being named to the Women’s Honor Roll of Sumter County.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Helen Louise DuCom Mahon.

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