**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR DR. C. LESLIE CARPENTER OF SUMTER COUNTY UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS DEAN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA SUMTER AND TO WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly have learned that on May 31, 2012, Dr. C. Leslie Carpenter will begin a well‑deserved retirement from his post as dean of the University of South Carolina Sumter, where he has compiled a remarkable and distinguished record of service since 1993; and

Whereas, young Les, born to Albert and Nina Carpenter in Bellville, Texas, earned bachelor’s degrees in both English and mathematics from Texas A&M University, as well as a master’s degree in educational administration from the same institution. In further preparation for his life’s work, in 1977 he received his doctorate in higher education administration from the University of Oregon; and

Whereas, heeding the call of his country, he was commissioned in 1970 as a second lieutenant, infantry, U.S. Army, and toured Vietnam as an infantry platoon leader, 1971‑1972. Upon return from overseas, he remained active in the U.S. Army Reserve, retiring in 1990 with twenty years of service and the rank of major; and

Whereas, prior to embarking on his service at USC Sumter, Dr. Les Carpenter served in various capacities at Ohio State University (Marion), Morningside College, the University of Oregon, Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, and Texas A&M University; and

Whereas, now in his nineteenth year as dean of USC Sumter, Dr. Carpenter has earned the respect of colleagues and students, as well as the surrounding community. Under his leadership, the university has seen the successful completion of two capital campaigns, the chartering of the USC Sumter Alumni Association, the securing of state appropriations to purchase the old Alice Drive Baptist Church property and renovate the church into what is now the Arts and Letters Building, the expansion of bachelor’s degrees offered from three to five, and the reinstitution of intercollegiate athletics, among numerous other achievements; and

Whereas, Dr. Carpenter believes in active community involvement and demonstrates that commitment through service with many organizations, including the South Carolina ACT Advisory Council, Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce (special board member), Sumter Rotary Club (board member and past president), Sumter Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast Committee, and First Presbyterian Church in Sumter, where he currently serves as a ruling elder; and

Whereas, for his years of dedicated service, he has been recognized in various ways. Among his honors are the Distinguished Alumnus of the College of Science of Texas A&M University award, and he is past honorary commander of the 20th Mission Support Squadron and 77th Fighter Squadron at Shaw Air Force Base; and

Whereas, Les Carpenter considers it one of the greatest triumphs of his life that he was able to persuade the former Margaret Christine Johnson to be his wife. Married since 1970, they reared two fine children, Christopher Lance and Sarah Elizabeth, and now are additionally blessed with three adoring grandchildren; and

Whereas, grateful for the exceptional leadership he has given to USC Sumter over the years, the South Carolina General Assembly salutes Dr. Les Carpenter as he begins his retirement and trusts he will find much enjoyment in the more leisurely pace of the days ahead. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, recognize and honor Dr. C. Leslie Carpenter of Sumter County upon the occasion of his retirement as dean of the University of South Carolina Sumter and wish him continued success in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Dr. C. Leslie Carpenter.

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