**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO COMMEND THE HONORABLE JAMES HODGES HARRISON FOR HIS TWENTY‑THREE YEARS OF COMMITTED SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF DISTRICT 75 IN RICHLAND COUNTY AND TO WISH HIM SUCCESS AND FULFILLMENT IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, for twenty‑three years, the Honorable James Hodges Harrison has represented the citizens of House District 75 in Richland County with faithfulness and excellence in the House of Representatives of this great State; and

Whereas, to begin preparation for a multifaceted career, Columbia attorney Jim Harrison earned his bachelor’s degree at The Citadel in 1973, followed by completion of his juris doctor degree at the University of South Carolina in 1976; and

Whereas, heeding the call of his country, he activated for military service during Operation Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia (1991), Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti (1994), and Operation Joint Endeavor in Bosnia (1996). A colonel (retired) in the United States Army Reserve, Jim Harrison graduated from the United States Army War College in 2000. The Bronze Star recipient was also recently awarded the Legion of Merit by the Secretary of the Army; and

Whereas, during his years in the House of Representatives, Jim Harrison has proven his worth as a member of the Judiciary Committee, which he has served as chairman since 1994; and

Whereas, Representative Harrison’s record as a legislator has been marked by notable success. He has made property tax relief and the rights of victims two of his top legislative priorities, and in 2006 his leadership helped secure passage of the Property Tax Relief Act, tougher penalties for criminal domestic violence, and “Jessica’s Law,” which made it easier to prosecute and convict sex offenders. He also led the fight to protect private‑property rights and strengthen incentives for companies looking to do business in South Carolina; and

Whereas, a respected leader among both parties in the General Assembly, he ably led the House of Representatives through two rounds of redistricting, guiding the body through the complicated and sometimes highly-charged process with his characteristic wisdom and good nature; and

Whereas, Representative Harrison believes in giving back to his community and does so in service with various organizations. He finds time to participate in the East Columbia Rotary Club, South Carolina Bar Association, and Richland County Bar Association and serves as a volunteer guardian ad litem for abused and neglected children; and

Whereas, as a proud husband and father, he finds his beloved wife, Susan H. Harrison, and his two daughters, Catherine and Molly, a blessing. He draws his strength from their strong support and from his faith, nurtured through worship at Shandon Presbyterian Church; and

Whereas, a true statesman in every sense of the word, Jim Harrison’s departure from the House of Representatives will be felt by all who know him. He can boast a long list of legislative accomplishments but his legacy also includes being known as the chairman with the ready smile and the train whistle which he judiciously blew when the legislative train was on the track; and

Whereas, Jim Harrison’s colleagues in the House of Representatives and all those who have had the privilege of working with him in some capacity during his tenure as chairman of the House Judiciary Committee thank him for his dedicated service to the people of this State and extend heartiest wishes for all the best life has to offer in the coming years. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, commend the Honorable James Hodges Harrison for his twenty‑three years of committed service to the citizens of District 75 in Richland County and wish him success and fulfillment in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to our distinguished colleague, the Honorable James Hodges Harrison.

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