**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR ROWLAND ALSTON OF SUMTER COUNTY, HOST OF SCETV’S *MAKING IT GROW!*, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT, AND TO WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS AND FULFILLMENT IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives have learned that Rowland Alston, well‑loved host of SCETV’s *Making It Grow!*, is retiring after forty‑two years of dedicated service as a Clemson University Extension Service agent; and

Whereas, Rowland Alston grew up in northwest Sumter County and has always had strong rural connections. He was raised on the six hundred‑acre family farm, a land grant from England’s King George II in 1735. He still has the official documentation; and

Whereas, after attending Clemson on a conservation scholarship, he wanted to enter the Air Force as a pilot. Unable to fly because of color blindness, he turned to the Army, where he failed another physical. So he returned to Clemson for graduate school; and

Whereas, Rowland Alston began working for the Sumter branch of the Clemson Extension in 1970, following in the footsteps of his father, a 1942 Clemson graduate; and

Whereas, *Making it Grow!* debuted in October 1993 and featured a large ginkgo farm in Sumter County and Cruse Vineyards near Chester. Since then, the program has featured gardens, artists, agritourism, museums, and festivals, all shown through an educational lens; and

Whereas, prior to taking up his hosting duties with *Making It Grow!*, Mr. Alston hosted SCETV’s *Agriculture Today*, which focused on commercial farming issues in the State from the late 1970s to 1993; and

Whereas, *Making It Grow!*, a live call‑in show, has won six regional Emmys and nine Telly awards. Alston, who also has written columns for several newspapers, was a TV natural and never used a teleprompter during his five hundred‑plus live episodes; and

Whereas, his philosophy of TV hosting is simple. As he says, “The way I try to do it is be who you are and not pretend. Everybody has friends, and they like you for who you are and not who you pretend to be”; and

Whereas, in retirement, Rowland Alston plans to return to a simple life, minus pressing deadlines. He’ll be on his John Deere Gator, driving his six hundred acres of woodlands and pastures, and will enjoy having more time with his wife, Martha; and

Whereas, for more than four decades, Rowland Alston has watched and chronicled South Carolina’s transition from a rural to an urban State with the Clemson Extension. For almost two decades, Mr. Alston, who is a lake of agricultural and horticultural knowledge, has discussed those changes on *Making it Grow!*, the Emmy Award‑winning program produced by SCETV and Clemson; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives, grateful for the consistent commitment and excellence Rowland Alston has demonstrated in his service to the people of South Carolina, takes great pleasure in wishing him well as he enters 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:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor Rowland Alston of Sumter County, host of SCETV’s *Making It Grow!*, upon the occasion of his retirement, and wish him continued success and fulfillment in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Rowland Alston.

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