**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND M. ANDREW “ANDY” JAMES, FORMER KERSHAW COUNTY EDUCATOR AND SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, FOR HIS THIRTY‑FOUR YEARS OF OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, it is with great pleasure that the members of the South Carolina General Assembly honor individuals who freely give of their time and resources for the good of others; and

Whereas, M. Andrew “Andy” James, former Kershaw County educator and school board member, has contributed thirty‑four years of invaluable public service to the citizens of the Palmetto State and thereby deserves special recognition and thanks; and

Whereas, he learned an early lesson that education provides access and access leads to opportunities. He devoted his professional life to providing those opportunities to each and every child whose life he touched. In the process, he forged lasting relationships with students, parents, teachers, and administrators; and

Whereas, Andy began his educational career as a fifth‑grade teacher in the New Jersey Public School System. He later taught math on the junior‑high level and served as guidance counselor and football coach at Burlington City High School, New Jersey; and

Whereas, in 1976, he joined the Kershaw County Public School system as a teacher at Baron DeKalb Elementary and coach at Baron DeKalb High School. In 1977, he was assigned the dual role of assistant principal at both Camden Elementary and Camden Primary schools. The following year, he was named principal of Camden Elementary and served in that position until becoming the principal of Pine Tree Hill Elementary in 1992. From 1995 to 1997, he worked as guidance counselor at the Continuous Learning Center. Andy was elected in 1999 to the Kershaw County School Board, where he served with distinction for twelve years, having just retired from his position on the board in December 2010; and

Whereas, he has been and continues to be engaged in many community activities and maintains active membership in several professional organizations. He has been an active member of the Camden‑Kershaw County Branch of the NAACP, the Black Caucus, Cassatt Water Board, and the ALPHA Center. Those who know him can attest to his energetic nature and desire to get involved; and

Whereas, for his continued service and visionary leadership in the Kershaw County community, the Camden‑Kershaw County Branch of the NAACP presented him with an award recognizing those who have carried on Dr. King’s legacy at its celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day on January 17, 2011; and

Whereas, Andy James has found strength for his years of service through the strong support of his family. He made the wise decision to marry his dear wife, Daisy Goodwin James, a native of Camden. Together they raised three fine children, Theron, Tanya, and Jonathan, each of whom is a success in their own right; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly recognize that the success of the State of South Carolina, the strength of its communities, and the vitality of American society as a whole depend, in great measure, upon the dedication of individuals like Andy James who use their talents and resources to serve others. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, recognize and commend M. Andrew “Andy” James, former Kershaw County educator and school board member, for his thirty‑four years of outstanding public service to the people of South Carolina.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to M. Andrew “Andy” James.

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