**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND THE HONORABLE WILLIE H. WOMBLE, CHIEF MAGISTRATE OF RICHLAND COUNTY, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE BENCH, AND TO WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly are pleased to learn that the Honorable Willie H. Womble will begin a well‑deserved retirement after forty‑three years of faithful and outstanding service to the citizens of Richland County; and

Whereas, at the age of seventeen, Willie Womble began working in the Waverly Magistrate office in 1968 before becoming a constable/deputy sheriff; and

Whereas, he began serving as the Waverly Magistrate over thirty‑one years ago and was appointed chief magistrate of Richland County in 1999; and

Whereas, during his tenure as the Richland County chief magistrate, he has brought many innovations to the office, such as the state’s first video bond court, issuance of electronic search warrants, and a full‑time bond‑court system, used throughout the State as a model for other counties; and

Whereas, he created the Central Court Judges Program that provides three full‑time judges for Central Court; the Magistrates On‑Call system that makes a designated judge available twenty‑four hours a day every day; two Richland County Quality of Life Courts; a court/school collaboration course for Business Law students in Richland County School District One; and the first Magistrate Mediation Court in the State, which won a National Association of Counties award; and

Whereas, in addition to his responsibilities for Richland County, Judge Womble serves as a Forest Acres municipal judge, was a commissioner for the South Carolina Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission, served as a member of the South Carolina Court Rules Committee, and is the first chairman of the South Carolina Summary Court Commission; and

Whereas, he has served in every office on the board of directors of the South Carolina Summary Court Judges Association, including two years as its president, is the longest‑serving member of the executive board, and is currently the executive director of the South Carolina Summary Court Judges Association; and

Whereas, for the past sixteen years, Judge Womble has planned and overseen the educational programs for the state’s summary judges, and he has also served for two terms as the parliamentarian and sergeant‑at‑arms of the National Judges Association; and

Whereas, together with his beloved wife, Maurie Womble, he reared two fine children, who have blessed them with three adoring grandchildren; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly is grateful for the legacy of leadership that the Honorable Willie H. Womble has bestowed on Richland County and appreciates the long and enduring guidance he has given to citizens of the Palmetto State. 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 the Honorable Willie H. Womble, chief magistrate of Richland County, upon the occasion of his retirement from the bench, and wish him continued success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Honorable Willie H. Womble.

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