**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR AND CONGRATULATE CHARLENE LOWERY, STAFF ASSISTANT TO CONGRESSMAN JIM CLYBURN, UPON HER RETIREMENT, AND TO WISH HER MUCH HAPPINESS IN ALL HER FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the members of the Senate have learned that Charlene Lowery, Staff Assistant to Congressman Jim Clyburn since 1993, was honored on Wednesday, April 27, 2011, at the SMIT Center in Florence, South Carolina for her upcoming retirement and celebrated with friends and family in Florence on May 6, 2011; and

Whereas, as Pee Dee Director for Congressman Clyburn, Mrs. Lowery is responsible for four counties in his district; and

Whereas, Charlene Lowery is a native of Sumter, South Carolina and currently resides in Florence; and

Whereas, she graduated from Florence Darlington Technical College and afterwards was employed by the Housing Authority in Florence; and

Whereas, Mrs. Lowery is a 1996 graduate of Leadership South Carolina and she is also owner of Children’s Depot and More, C&H Properties of Florence, and Lowery’s Elegant Weddings and Event Planning; and

Whereas, Mrs. Lowery is active in her community as a member of Trinity Baptist Church, Dorcas Missionary Circle, Subscribing Life Member of the NAACP, National Notary Association, and the Zeta Phi Beta Florence Amicae Auxiliary; and

Whereas, she also serves on the Florence Darlington Technical College Board of Trustees, Florence Downtown Development Board, TWIN (Tribute to Women and Industry Board), First Reliance Advisory Board, Progress Energy Community Advisory Council, Cancer Survivor Relay for Life Steering Committee, ETV Advisory Committee, Carolinas Hospital System Board of Trustees, and the Advisory Board for S.C. Women’s Connection; and

Whereas, just a few of the many organizations she has previously served with include the Florence District One School Foundation Board, Florence Chamber of Commerce, United Way Board Minority Business Council, State Board of League of Women Voters, and past Honorary Chairperson for the United Negro College Fund; and

Whereas, in 1994 Mrs. Lowery was chosen to be a mentor by the Congressional Black Caucus for a student representative of the sixth district and Volunteer of the Year in 1998 by the *Community Times* newspaper for her involvement with the United Negro College Fund; and

Whereas, in 2001 she was voted Woman of the Year by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority and was voted Small Business of the Year by the Columbia Small Business Administration; and

Whereas, in 2005 Mrs. Lowery received the UNCF Appreciation Award and in 2006 she received the Excellence in Leadership Award from Crescent Temple #148 and Crescent Court #143; and

Whereas, in 2007 she received a Distinguished Service Award from the Florence Section of the National Council of Negro Women and the J.C. Penney Golden Rule Award for Volunteerism; and

Whereas, Mrs. Lowery is married to U.W. Lowery and together they have two children, Leonard and April, and two granddaughters, Maya and Carmen; and

Whereas, Mrs. Lowery has always provided timely and professional assistance to Senator Kent Williams and his staff each and every time assistance was needed and she will truly be missed. Her dedication to our State is admirable and she is an outstanding mentor and role model for the women in South Carolina; and

Whereas, it is fitting and proper for the members of the Senate to pause in their deliberations to recognize the many accomplishments of this daughter of South Carolina upon her retirement after a distinguished career. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the Senate, by this resolution, honor and congratulate Charlene Lowery, Staff Assistant to Congressman Jim Clyburn, upon her retirement, and to wish her much happiness in all her future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mrs. Charlene Lowery.

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