**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR LIEUTENANT RALPH RICHARD CARTER, FORMERLY OF THE MYRTLE BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER TWENTY YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE, AND TO WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to learn that Lieutenant Ralph Richard Carter answered his last call on February 19, 2013, and then began a much‑deserved retirement after twenty years of significant contributions to the Myrtle Beach Fire Department; and

Whereas, in the 1980s, Richard Carter began his career as a firefighter with the City of Florence Fire Department, and when he and his family moved to Myrtle Beach, he volunteered for seven years with the Murrells Inlet Fire Department; and

Whereas, he started as a firefighter recruit in the Myrtle Beach Fire Department on April 21, 1993, and rose to the rank of lieutenant, surpassing many qualified candidates through hard work and talent; and

Whereas, by becoming a member of the fire investigation team, Lieutenant Carter was instrumental in helping the department to secure an ISO CLASS I Ranking, spending much of his off‑duty time securing the requisite courses and certificates to become a fire investigator; and

Whereas, he dedicated himself to transforming the department’s honor guard from a team that occasionally served at local events to a finely honed honor guard that provided services in New York City for the 911 funerals for first responders; and

Whereas, under the leadership of Lieutenant Carter, the honor guard has been used in surrounding states and widely throughout the State for public safety as well as for fire personnel killed in the line of duty and has been revitalized with new equipment, new uniforms, and a sense of pride and purpose; and

Whereas, he coordinated a large-scale honor guard detail for the memorial service of the state fire chief and assisted in coordinating the honor guards that served at the extraordinary memorial service for the Charleston Nine and at the annual South Carolina Firefighters’ Association Conference; and

Whereas, the firefighters of the Myrtle Beach Fire Department will miss the tales he told of earlier firefighters blindly running into danger, provided with scant protective gear and no respiratory protection, as well as the role model of this true hero and honorable public servant, an inspiration for all firefighters; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are grateful for the years of dedication that Richard Carter has devoted to the Myrtle Beach Fire Department and wish him many years of enjoyment in his well‑earned retirement. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and honor Lieutenant Ralph Richard Carter, formerly the Myrtle Beach Fire Department, upon the occasion of his retirement after twenty years of outstanding service, 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 Lieutenant Ralph Richard Carter.

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