**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND THE HONORABLE ROBERT NATHANIEL JENKINS, CIRCUIT FAMILY COURT JUDGE, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE, AND TO WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, it is altogether fitting and proper that the members of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina should pause in their deliberations to express their gratitude to the Honorable Robert Nathaniel Jenkins for his significant contributions to the legal profession in the Palmetto State; and

Whereas, the eleventh of thirteen children born to Shepherd and the Reverend Elouise “Nancy” Jenkins of McClellanville, Robert Nathaniel Jenkins was born on August 8, 1947, and graduated cum laude from Burke High School in Charleston in 1964; and

Whereas, after serving his nation in the United States Air Force for four years during the Vietnam era, Robert Jenkins entered The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina, in 1969 as a veteran student and earned a bachelor’s in political science in 1972, the fourth African American to receive an undergraduate degree from The Citadel, where he later served on the Board of Visitors from 1991 to 1996; and

Whereas, he earned a juris doctorate from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1975, and quickly became an advocate for the poor, serving as a staff attorney for the Charleston‑based legal aid office from 1976 to 1979, and coordinating the expansion of locally based legal aid offices in Beaufort, Berkeley, Colleton, Dorchester, Georgetown, Horry, Jasper, Marion, and Williamsburg counties; and

Whereas, from 1979 to 1996, he served as director and chief attorney for the Legal Services Agency of Western Carolina, pioneering the expansion of local‑based legal aid offices in Abbeville, Anderson, Edgefield, Greenwood, McCormick, Oconee, and Pickens counties and developing the Libra Society to enable private lawyers to give free pro bono, legal services to people who could not be helped through legal aid offices; and

Whereas, in 1996, Robert Jenkins was elected by the South Carolina General Assembly to serve as a judge of the Family Court for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat #5; and

Whereas, Judge Jenkins has been actively involved with his community through Greenville’s Child, Inc.; the Greenville Chamber of Commerce; S.H.A.R.E., Inc.; Save Our Sons; S.C. Families for Kids; Neighborhoods in Action; Allen Temple African Methodist Episcopal Church; the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges; the South Carolina Commission on Standards of Judicial Conduct; and the South Carolina Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission; and

Whereas, in 2013, the South Carolina Conference of Family Court Judges honored Judge Jenkins with the prestigious Buchan, Brown & Jacobs Award, for highest integrity, professionalism, skill, compassion, spirit, optimism, and courage among his peers; and

Whereas, together with his beloved wife and high school sweetheart, the former Margaret Helen Rivers of McClellanville, he reared two fine sons, Robert, Jr., and Jason Matthew; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly is grateful for the years of unparalleled dedication that Robert Jenkins has devoted to the state’s judicial system as he has daily lived out his personal vision in the words of the Prophet Micah to “do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God,” and the members wish him many years of enjoyment in his well‑earned retirement. 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 Robert Nathaniel Jenkins, Family Court Judge, upon the occasion of his retirement after eighteen years of exemplary 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 the Honorable Robert Nathaniel Jenkins.

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