**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR KEN KERBER, FIRE CHIEF OF THE FORT MILL FIRE DEPARTMENT, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER TWENTY‑FIVE YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE AS A FIREFIGHTER IN THE PALMETTO STATE, AND TO WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS AND FULFILLMENT IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly have learned that Ken Kerber, fire chief of the Fort Mill Fire Department, began a well‑deserved retirement on January 4, 2013, after twenty‑five years of service in fire prevention and safety in the Palmetto State; and

Whereas, Chief Kerber, who served as president of the South Carolina State Firefighters Association during the 2011‑2012 term, joined the Fort Mill Fire Department in 1987, when it was largely composed of volunteers, and worked simultaneously in banking and medical management. In 1995, he became chief of the volunteer squadron; and

Whereas, in 2004, he became an employee of the Town of Fort Mill as the fire department’s first paid, full‑time fire chief. Since then, the department has expanded. Although for several years the department had firefighters on duty only Monday through Friday during the day, the station is now staffed “24/7/365,” and the department has grown to twenty‑six firefighters, including fourteen full‑time, six part‑time, and six volunteer firefighters; and

Whereas, under Chief Kerber’s command, the department never lost a firefighter in the line of duty, a fact that gives him much satisfaction; and

Whereas, those who have had the privilege of working with Chief Kerber do not stint their commendation. Flint Hill Fire Department Chief David Jennings praised Chief Kerber’s ability quickly to take control of hostile situations as an incident commander at fire scenes. He attested that with Ken Kerber at the helm, Flint Hill firefighters always felt comfortable operating under Fort Mill’s command and vice versa; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly is grateful for the years of dedication that Fort Mill Fire Chief Ken Kerber has devoted to the safety and protection of South Carolina’s citizens, and the members wish him many years of enjoyment as he takes on new challenges in the days ahead. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, recognize and honor Ken Kerber, fire chief of the Fort Mill Fire Department, upon the occasion of his retirement after twenty‑five years of outstanding service as a firefighter in the Palmetto State, and wish him continued success and fulfillment in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Fire Chief Ken Kerber.

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