**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND THE HONORABLE OPHER AVIRAN, CONSUL GENERAL OF ISRAEL TO THE SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES, FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE, AND TO EXTEND TO HIM A CORDIAL WELCOME TO THE PALMETTO STATE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the Honorable Opher Aviran, Consul General of Israel to the Southeastern United States, presently is visiting the Palmetto State; and

Whereas, in preparation for his life’s work, Opher Aviran earned a bachelor’s degree in international relations from Hebrew University in Jerusalem and a master’s degree in political science with a specialty in national security studies from the University of Haifa and National Defense College; and

Whereas, appointed in August of 2010 to serve as the Consul General of Israel to the Southeastern United States, the Honorable Opher Aviran, through his congenial relationship with the Governor of South Carolina and members of the South Carolina General Assembly, has promoted political and strategic cooperation between the State of Israel and the State of South Carolina; and

Whereas, South Carolina and Israel have a history of strong trade relations, including the “South Carolina-Israel Collaboration” through which the State and Israel promote trade relations with each other, including joint venture, investment, and joint research opportunities; and

Whereas, Opher Aviran has worked to further the economic ties between the State of Israel and the State of South Carolina in the fields of health care, water technology, defense, and homeland security; and

Whereas, in addition, he has strengthened the collaboration between South Carolina’s academic institutions and leading universities in Israel; and

Whereas, his decades of service to the country of Israel encompass a worthy body of accomplishments. Opher Aviran joined Israel’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1983 and has since served as Second Secretary, Deputy Chief of Mission, at the Israeli Embassy in Rangoon, Burma; Cultural and Scientific Affairs Attache at his country’s embassy in The Hague, The Netherlands; and Counselor, Deputy Chief of Mission, at Israel’s embassy in Canberra, Australia; and

Whereas, in Israel, he has worked in a variety of high level national security positions, including an appointment as Director of the Jordanian, Syrian, and Lebanese Affairs Department in Jerusalem in 1999, and Senior Foreign Policy Advisor to the Israel Defense Forces Planning Branch in Tel Aviv in 2004; and

Whereas, appreciative of the high distinction with which he has served, the House of Representatives takes great pleasure in celebrating the extraordinary achievements of Consul General Aviran. The members extend to him a warm welcome to the fair State of South Carolina and wish him a pleasant and rewarding visit. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and commend the Honorable Opher Aviran, Consul General of Israel to the Southeastern United States, for his many years of dedicated public service, and extend to him a cordial welcome to the Palmetto State.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Honorable Opher Aviran, Consul General of Israel to the Southeastern United States.

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