**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR ANTHONY EUGENE “T. J.” JOHNSON FOR A STELLAR CAREER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA BOTH AS AN OUTSTANDING ATHLETE ON THE GAMECOCK FOOTBALL TEAM AND AS AN EXEMPLARY STUDENT.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly are pleased to honor University of South Carolina Senior T. J. Johnson at the end of his Gamecock football career; and

Whereas, born and raised in the small town of Aynor in Horry County, he graduated from Aynor High School in 2008 where he earned first‑team all‑state honors from the Associated Press as a senior and was ranked as the thirteenth‑best offensive center in the nation and the seventeenth‑best player in the State; and

Whereas, as a three‑star college prospect, T. J. Johnson rejected offers from Vanderbilt, Duke, Wake Forest, East Carolina, Kentucky, Maryland, and North Carolina State in order to play for the Gamecocks; and

Whereas, the redshirt freshman offensive lineman, along with only four other players, started every game in 2009, and he earned Freshman All‑SEC recognition by the league’s twelve coaches and was named the Most Improved Offensive Lineman in the spring; and

Whereas, in 2010, he started all fourteen games at center and was rewarded with a game ball and named SEC Offensive Lineman of the Week for his opening‑game performance against Southern Mississippi that paved the way for a 224‑yard rushing total. He earned inclusion that year on the SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll and was given the Weight Room Effort Award in the spring; and

Whereas, as a junior, he started all thirteen games at center in 2011 and was on the Rimington Award watch list. He was one of three players named a Harold White GPA Award winner and was a member of the 2011 SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll; and

Whereas, at 6 feet 6 inches and 319 pounds, he was the offensive‑line senior leader and a team captain and was on the preseason Rimington Award watch list two straight seasons; and

Whereas, over the past four seasons, he started all fifty‑three games, a school record, and is the only Gamecock in history to start in four wins over in‑state rival Clemson University. He was named to the second‑team on Phil Steele’s 2012 Midseason All‑America and All‑SEC squads while remaining a member of the SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll. He has been invited to the NFL Scouting Combine to pursue his dream of playing in the NFL; and

Whereas, having earned a degree in sport and entertainment management, he also loves to fish. His largest red fish catch weighed in at thirty‑five pounds, and he mounted his prized‑catch, ten‑pound bass; and

Whereas, raised in the church by a loving family, he has used his platform as a college football player to honor God, speaking frequently to church groups in order to give God glory; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly are grateful for the pride and recognition that T. J. Johnson has brought to the University of South Carolina and to the Palmetto State and look to hear of his continued accomplishments. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina, by this resolution, recognize and honor Anthony Eugene “T. J.” Johnson for a stellar career at the University of South Carolina, both as an outstanding athlete on the Gamecock football team and as an exemplary student.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Anthony Eugene “T. J.” Johnson.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑