**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE MR. GEORGE W. BALLENTINE, JR. UPON BEING NAMED THE SOUTH CAROLINA 2013 TIME DEALER OF THE YEAR BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA AUTOMOBILE DEALERS ASSOCIATION.

Whereas, George (Bal) W. Ballentine, Jr. of George Ballentine Ford Lincoln Toyota in Greenwood, South Carolina was honored as South Carolina’s 2013 TIME Dealer of the Year by the South Carolina Automobile Dealers Association (SCADA); and

Whereas, Bal is one of a select group of fifty-seven dealer nominees from across the country that has been chosen for one of the automobile industry’s most prestigious and highly coveted honors, and he has been nationally recognized for community service and industry accomplishments; and

Whereas, recipients are among the nation’s most successful auto dealers who also demonstrate a longstanding commitment to community service; and

Whereas, George Ballentine, Sr. founded the George Ballentine Motor Company in Greenwood in 1950 where his son, Bal, Jr., started in the automobile business. Bal began his career in high school, first by washing cars and then he worked his way up to the service and parts departments; and

Whereas, he studied Business Administration at Clemson University, which helped prepare him to take over the family business. In 1979, four years after graduating from Clemson University, he was named General Manager and in 2000 he became President of the Dealership; and

Whereas, Bal’s lifelong commitment to his hometown is evident in his business initiatives and the charitable causes he has championed. He has served as President of the Greenwood Chamber of Commerce, Board Member of Self Memorial Hospital, Lander University Foundation, and the Greenwood Genetic Center and he served on the Board of Directors for County Bank; and

Whereas, Bal has noted that “living in a small town with unemployment over 10 percent, we often face many difficult challenges, but since 2000, we have been able to give more than one million dollars to our local charities and organizations that have enabled our citizens to live a little better”; and

Whereas, in 2007, Bal was elected President of the South Carolina Automobile Dealers Association, an honor that recognizes his commitment to the dealer family and industry. Bal has served on the SCADA Board from 1982 to the present; and

Whereas, Bal and his wife Kathryn (Kit) live in Greenwood and are the proud parents of Sarah, Jessica, and Wells. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the Senate, by this resolution, congratulate Mr. George W. Ballentine, Jr. upon being named the South Carolina 2013 TIME Dealer of the Year by the South Carolina Automobile Dealers Association.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mr. George Ballentine, Jr.

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