**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE MR. ANDY COONEY, AN IRISH-AMERICAN MUSIC ENTERTAINER, AND TO WELCOME HIM TO SOUTH CAROLINA IN MARCH 2013.

Whereas, Andy Cooney is a musician, songwriter, vocalist, and true entertainer who has taken the Irish‑American music scene by storm; and

Whereas, with his sold out performances at Carnegie Hall, Andy Cooney was christened by *The New York Times* as “Irish America’s Favorite Son”; and

Whereas, his outstanding voice and dynamic stage presence makes him a favorite with audiences and his talent and versatility provide the ability to deliver a song directly to the hearts of his listeners; and

Whereas, Andy has gathered around him the finest group of musicians on the Irish music scene touring all over the world; and

Whereas, known to be a true professional bringing the best of Irish entertainment wherever he tours, Andy’s “Forever Irish” tour will soon be in South Carolina, performing at Southern Wesleyan University in Central, S.C. on March 20, 2013, and at Magnolia Hall, Sun City, Hilton Head, S.C. on March 22, 2013; and

Whereas, a seasoned stage veteran, these high‑energy shows with his accomplished band of musicians showcase the best in Irish music, comedy, and dance; and

Whereas, Andy has recorded 15 albums and has always associated himself with the top musicians on the Irish recording scene. He has made his mark not only on the Irish/Irish‑American front but also within the world of country music, a natural link since so much of country music has Irish roots; and

Whereas, Andy was born one of nine children into a deep‑rooted Irish American family from Long Island, N.Y. He has been singing Irish songs all his life, beginning at an early age directed by his Dublin born grandfather; and

Whereas, as a young lad, he sang at family and church gatherings. His professional career began at the young age of 17, when he began appearing in many of the well‑known Irish establishments in the New York area entertaining audiences with his piano playing and singing; and

Whereas, in 1986, at age 19, the well‑known Irish bandleader, Paddy Noonan, asked Andy to tour with his show. For the next several years Andy toured with him gaining national exposure for his talent and winning a place in the hearts of all those who heard him from coast to coast. In 1994, Andy struck out on his own and hasn’t looked back since. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the Senate of South Carolina, by this resolution, honor and recognize Mr. Andy Cooney and welcome him to South Carolina in March 2013.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mr. Andy Cooney.

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