**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO COMMEND MAYOR RICHARD ALTON MCCOLLUM OF BAMBERG FOR HIS LIFETIME OF DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE, TO CONGRATULATE HIM UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS MAYOR OF BAMBERG, AND TO WISH HIM MUCH SUCCESS AND FULFILLMENT IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the Senate notes with appreciation the career of Mayor Richard Alton McCollum of Bamberg, who will retire on April 2, 2013, after eighteen successful years at the helm of his city’s government; and

Whereas, seldom has a mayor of Bamberg worked as hard to improve the quality of life and guarantee the future of his city as has Alton McCollum; and

Whereas, Mayor McCollum’s career in public service encompasses decades of commitment: twenty‑five years as principal of Richard Carroll Middle School, fifteen years as Bamberg‑Ehrhardt High School band director, five years as choral director of Bamberg High School, four years as band director of Richard Carroll High School, four years as band director of Denmark High School, two years as choral director at Olar High School, and two years as a city councilman for Bamberg, in addition to his eighteen years as mayor of that city; and

Whereas, believing a man should be fully involved in his community, this fifty‑eight‑year resident of Bamberg has given freely of his time and expertise to numerous organizations. He is a member of the Bamberg Lions Club (two terms as president; two terms as deputy district governor, District 8), Old Friends Golf Classic (honorary chairman), and Bamberg Men’s Garden Club. He is also a soloist for many special occasions and actor and singer in community theatre; and

Whereas, in his capacity as mayor, Alton McCollum has kept at the top of his priority list economic development and improving downtown parking and traffic flow through the city. Accordingly, he led the revitalization of downtown Bamberg and Highway 78 in Bamberg, created the Bamberg Fourth of July Celebration, and developed Bamberg Treasurefest. He also served as director of State Champion Bands at Bamberg‑Ehrhardt High School, was co‑founder of the Edisto Band Conference, and took home the top prize for the Wally Tyler Quartet Competition; and

Whereas, in preparation for his life’s work, Alton McCollum earned a bachelor’s degree in music at Lenoir Rhyne College in his native North Carolina, followed by a master of education administration from South Carolina State University in Orangeburg; and

Whereas, he finds strength for his labors in the firm support of his family, his wife of fifty‑five years, Marie Grooms McCollum; his children, Rick and Jerina; his grandchildren, Blake, Tyler, Alex, and Emily; and his great‑grandchildren, Lilly, Noah, and Liam; and

Whereas, the Senate is grateful for the visionary leadership of Mayor Alton McCollum, and the members take much pleasure in joining with the citizens of Bamberg in extending to him best wishes as he begins a well‑deserved retirement. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, commend Mayor Richard Alton McCollum of Bamberg for his lifetime of dedicated public service, congratulate him upon his retirement as mayor of Bamberg, and wish him much success and fulfillment in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Mayor Alton McCollum.

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