**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE ROTARY CLUB OF ABBEVILLE FOR ITS SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY AND TO CONGRATULATE THE MEMBERS UPON THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE ROTARY CLUB IN ABBEVILLE.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to learn that the Rotary Club of Abbeville will celebrate a half century of meaningful community involvement in Abbeville at a gala to be held on March 21, 2013; and

Whereas, a grass‑roots organization with over 1.2 million members worldwide, Rotary International consists of business professionals and community leaders who volunteer their time, talent, and resources to address and resolve vital community needs; and

Whereas, Rotary members identify community needs locally, nationally, and internationally, then leverage their resources to facilitate solutions; and

Whereas, chartered on March 23, 1963, the Abbeville Rotary Club currently has forty‑seven members and represents Abbeville County business people to promote the Rotary International standard of “service above self”; and

Whereas, for the last forty‑seven years, the Club has coordinated and managed the Rotary Bowl, an event that provides little league football teams around the Upstate the opportunity to compete in a high‑school‑stadium setting, and the proceeds from the event are used to support local projects; and

Whereas, for more than fifteen years, the Club has hosted the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards program, a week‑long leadership conference at Erskine College for high school students throughout the Upstate, and has provided a full scholarship for an individual from each of the three county high schools to attend the program; and

Whereas, the Club participates annually in a Job Shadow day that has an average of fifty high school students each year who shadow a Rotarian at work for the day in order to learn more about that member’s vocation; and

Whereas, in the last ten years, the Abbeville Rotary has raised and distributed almost one hundred thirty thousand dollars, almost half of which has been used to fund international endeavors such as safe‑drinking water projects in Africa and Central America, schoolhouse construction in Central America, and efforts to eradicate polio completely throughout the world; and

Whereas, other local projects supported with these funds include college scholarships, the Abbeville Recreation Center, First Steps and the Learning Bus, a local food bank and health clinic, the Boy Scouts, and Boys State; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate value the influence that Rotary Clubs have on the lives of so many in their communities and wish the members of the Abbeville Rotary many more years of successful involvement in their community and beyond. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and honor the Rotary Club of Abbeville for its significant impact on the community and congratulate the members upon the fiftieth anniversary celebration of the Rotary Club in Abbeville.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Abbeville Rotary.

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