**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE DONNA HOOKS, PRINCIPAL OF BURGESS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN MYRTLE BEACH, UPON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT, TO COMMEND HER FOR HER MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE AS AN EDUCATOR, AND TO WISH HER MUCH HAPPINESS AND FULFILLMENT IN ALL HER FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, it is with great pleasure that the South Carolina House of Representatives honors those individuals who give tirelessly of themselves to the welfare of this great state’s most precious resource, its children; and

Whereas, Donna Hooks, retiring principal of Burgess Elementary School in Myrtle Beach, stands among their number as an outstanding educator, one much admired in her capacity as both administrator and role model for her students; and

Whereas, in preparation for her career, Donna Hooks earned her bachelor’s and graduate degrees at the University of South Carolina in Columbia; and

Whereas, Ms. Hooks, with thirty‑six years of experience in the field of education, all in Horry County Schools (HCS), has earned the respect of all who have worked with her. She has served as a teacher at St. James Middle School and Lakewood Elementary School, assistant principal at Forestbrook Elementary School, and principal at South Conway Elementary School and Burgess Elementary School. She also has served as a staff development instructor for HCS; and

Whereas, she twice has been selected as a finalist for South Carolina Association of School Administrators Principal of the Year. Under her watch, Burgess Elementary also has excelled, being named a Palmetto’s Finest School and a National School of Character and been awarded the HCS Service Learning Award for multiple consecutive years. In addition, Burgess Elementary has earned the South Carolina School Improvement Council Riley Award; and

Whereas, more than just a principal, Ms. Hooks serves on the South Carolina Improvement Council, South Carolina Association of School Administrators, and Palmetto’s Finest Visitation Committee, as well as the HCS Superintendent’s Principals Cabinet; and

Whereas, Donna Hooks firmly believes in active involvement in the community and demonstrates that commitment through membership in the Greater Burgess Community Board and in Myrtle Beach’s Timberlake Baptist Church, where she serves as a deacon, children’s church teacher, and choir member. Further, this woman of faith travels South Carolina singing songs of Zion as a member of the Glory Bound Trio; and

Whereas, having made her mark and set the bar of achievement high in her profession, Donna Hooks, beloved by students, parents, faculty, and staff, will retire on June 30, 2014, and will be remembered with affection and gratitude for many years to come. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate Donna Hooks, principal of Burgess Elementary School in Myrtle Beach, upon the occasion of her retirement, commend her for her many years of dedicated service as an educator, and wish her much happiness and fulfillment in all her future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Donna Hooks.

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