**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR DENISE DUKE OF COLUMBIA, A TWENTY‑ONE YEAR VETERAN TEACHER, FOR HER SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO CONGRATULATE HER FOR BEING NAMED THE FIRST RECIPIENT OF THE NASA BEAGLE AWARD.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly were pleased to learn that Denise Duke, a science teacher at Forest Lake Elementary School in Columbia, was awarded the first NASA Beagle Award; and

Whereas, she was presented the award by Richland Two School Board Vice Chair James Manning, assisted by a teleconference with NASA representatives; and

Whereas, every year, NASA astronauts award an outstanding NASA employee with the Silver Snoopy Award. The education department at NASA decided that NASA needed a similar award for educators who make a difference, so the NASA Beagle Award was created; and

Whereas, Denise Duke epitomizes this award in that she has led the staff at Forest Lake Elementary School, a NASA Explorer School since 2006, in implementing NASA resources into the school’s STEM curriculum in an effort to educate children in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; and

Whereas, less than one percent of NASA’s Digital Learning Network (DLN) partners will be awarded this distinguished recognition which will honor educators who make significant contributions beyond normal work requirements. These award winners help with the development and advancement of DLN programming, accomplish specific achievements that have significant impact on particular student achievements and educational goals, and sustain quality performance over an extended period of time in support of DLN at NASA; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly appreciate the pride and recognition that Denise Duke has brought to her school, her community, and the Palmetto State and celebrate this prestigious honor with her. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, recognize and honor Denise Duke of Columbia, a twenty‑one year veteran teacher, for her significant contributions to education in South Carolina and congratulate her for being named the first recipient of the NASA Beagle Award.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Denise Duke.

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