**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR SOPHIA FLOYD DERRICK, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE HOUSE OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT, TO THANK HER FOR HER MANY YEARS OF OUTSTANDING AND DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, AND TO WISH HER MUCH SUCCESS AND FULFILLMENT IN ALL HER FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, for thirty‑three years, Columbia’s Sophia Floyd Derrick has carried out her duties as a South Carolina House of Representatives staff member with poise and excellence, the past sixteen of those years as executive secretary of the House Operations and Management Committee (O & M); and

Whereas, in preparation for her career, Sophia graduated from the University of South Carolina, having already obtained practical job experience working for First Palmetto Bank; and

Whereas, Sophia began work at the State House in 1979 as a House page and served as a bill clerk from 1983 to 1986. In time, when Sophia accepted the job of executive secretary for the House O & M Committee, she began a term of service that would last nearly two decades, until her retirement on June 30, 2014; and

Whereas, during her tenure with O & M, Sophia Derrick has served as not only O & M executive secretary but also executive secretary for the Interstate Cooperation Committee, Committee to Screen Candidates for College and University Boards of Trustees, Joint Committee on Tourism and Trade, Joint Internal Security Committee, and Tourism Caucus. She further has served as supervisor for the Legislative Aide Program and has worked with the Blatt Building manager on building issues; and

Whereas, her O & M chairman, Representative Garry Smith, praises Sophia as a mainstay in the office who will be sorely missed. He adds, “Her smile and sense of humor have made coming to the office a pleasure‑‑except when she and my wife redecorated my office and tried to throw away my orange AMI tie that my friend Wade Shealy gave me and expected me to wear every time he and the AMI folks came to Columbia!”; and

Whereas, in the community, this woman of faith is a member of Trenholm Road Methodist Church, where she is active in the Jewel Shaw Circle and the Believers Sunday School Class. In addition, she currently teaches at Jamie Scott Fitness and has taught fitness classes for nineteen years throughout her community; and

Whereas, at home, she is the proud wife of Lynn Derrick and the equally proud mother of Whit, Jordan, Tripp, and Charles. In October, Sophia expects to have yet another justifiable and joyful reason for pride: the arrival of her first grandchild; and

Whereas, during Sophia’s well‑earned retirement, the House trusts she will find herself more frequently able to indulge in vacationing on Bald Head Island, boating, fishing, gardening, cooking, reading, playing with her black labs Grits and Grizzly, and traveling; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives, grateful for the legacy of consistent commitment and excellence Sophia Derrick has bestowed on the people of South Carolina, takes great pleasure in wishing her well as she enters retirement and trusts she will find much enjoyment in the more leisurely pace of the days ahead. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor Sophia Floyd Derrick, executive secretary of the House Operations and Management Committee, on the occasion of her retirement, thank her for her many years of outstanding and dedicated service to the State of South Carolina, and wish her much success and fulfillment in all her future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Sophia Floyd Derrick.

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