**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR CHIEF SHANE RAY, SOUTH CAROLINA STATE FIRE MARSHAL, FOR HIS EXEMPLARY SERVICE AND DISTINGUISHED CAREER AS A FIREFIGHTER, AND TO WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to pause in their deliberations to express their deep gratitude to Shane Ray for his significant contributions to fire safety in the Palmetto State; and

Whereas, he earned a bachelor’s degree from Eastern Kentucky University and completed Harvard’s John F. Kennedy School of Government for State and Local Elected Officials Program, the University of Maryland’s Leadership Development Program, and the National Fire Academy’s Executive Fire Officer Program; and

Whereas, beginning his career in fire safety in 1984, Chief Ray worked his way through the ranks of volunteer and career organizations from firefighter to fire chief; and

Whereas, in 1988, he was elected Mayor of Pleasant View, Tennessee, and he served as mayor for six years; and

Whereas, in 2005, Chief Ray was named *Fire Chief* magazine’s Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year, one of the youngest fire chiefs to capture this honor. In 2006, he was honored by his alma mater with the Distinguished Alumnus of the Year award, and in 2011, he was selected as Tennessee Fire Chief of the Year; and

Whereas, he served as Fire Chief of the Pleasant View Volunteer Fire Department in Tennessee for thirteen years before being named to head the South Carolina Fire Academy as its superintendent in 2011; and

Whereas, one year later, Governor Nikki Haley appointed Chief Ray to lead the firefighters of the Palmetto State as the South Carolina Fire Marshal; and

Whereas, he currently serves as the volunteer Battalion Chief of the Clarendon County Fire and Rescue and as the International Director for the Volunteer and Combination Officers Section of the International Association of Fire Chiefs; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives appreciates the outstanding leadership that State Fire Marshal Shane Ray has provided to fire safety in the Palmetto State and his devotion to training our state’s firefighters so they can safely and sacrificially protect the citizens they serve. 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 Chief Shane Ray, South Carolina State Fire Marshal, for his exemplary service and distinguished career as a firefighter, and wish him continued success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Chief Shane Ray.

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