**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR DR. BENJAMIN SOLOMON CARSON, SR., RENOWNED DIRECTOR OF PEDIATRIC NEUROSURGERY AT JOHNS HOPKINS HOSPITAL, AND TO WELCOME HIM TO SOUTH CAROLINA AS KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT THE SEVENTH ANNUAL GREENVILLE HOSPITAL SYSTEM’S MINORITY HEALTH SUMMIT.

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly is pleased to welcome celebrated pediatric neurosurgeon and *New York Times* best‑selling author, Dr. Benjamin S. “Ben” Carson, Sr., to the Palmetto State to give the keynote address for the Minority Health Summit at the Seventh Annual Greenville Hospital System; and

Whereas, as a child in a single‑parent home in inner‑city Detroit challenged with dire poverty, poor grades, a horrible temper, and low self‑esteem, Ben Carson battled against all odds to fulfill any childhood dreams, much less one to become a physician; and

Whereas, his mother, undaunted by having only a third‑grade education herself, required her sons to reject failure by turning off the television set and reading two books a week; and

Whereas, today a full professor of neurosurgery, oncology, plastic surgery, and pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, he has directed pediatric neurosurgery at the school’s Children’s Center for over a quarter of a century, and in May 2008, he became the inaugural recipient of the eponymous professorship there; and

Whereas, Dr. Carson completed the first and only successful separation of craniopagus (Siamese) twins joined at the back of the head in 1987, the first fully successful separation of type‑2 vertical craniopagus twins in 1997 in South Africa, and the first successful placement of an intrauterine shunt for a hydrocephalic twin, and in 2001, he was named by CNN and *TIME* magazine as one of the nation’s twenty foremost physicians and scientists; and

Whereas, Dr. Carson holds more than sixty honorary doctorates and membership in the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, the Institute of Medicine/National Academy of Science, and the Horatio Alger Society of Distinguished Americans, and he is an emeritus fellow of the Yale Corporation, the governing body of Yale University; and

Whereas, appointed in 2004 by President George W. Bush to serve on the President’s Council on Bioethics, he addressed the 2013 President’s National Prayer Breakfast and endorsed the fairness of proportionality in a flat tax and advocated an electronic medical record and health savings account for all citizens from birth; and

Whereas, as president and co‑founder of the Carson Scholars Fund, he has awarded over four and a half million dollars to more than four thousand five hundred scholars from all backgrounds across America for exceptional academic and humanitarian success. The program also establishes Carson Reading Rooms to encourage students and their families to discover the world of reading; and

Whereas, to provide grants that assist neurosurgery patients with expenses not covered by insurance, Dr. Carson co‑founded Angels of the OR through the Baltimore Community Foundation; and

Whereas, *Gifted Hands*; *THINK BIG; The Big Picture*; *Take the Risk: Learning to Identify, Choose and Live with Acceptable Risk*;and *America the Beautiful: Rediscovering What Made This Nation Great* are his five diverse books that provide inspiration and insight for living successfully; and

Whereas, together with his beloved wife of more than thirty‑seven years, Candy, he reared three fine sons; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly is grateful for the life and example of Dr. Ben Carson and welcomes his noteworthy visit to the Palmetto State. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, recognize and honor Dr. Benjamin Solomon Carson, Sr., renowned director of Pediatric Neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital, and welcome him to South Carolina as keynote speaker of the Seventh Annual Greenville Hospital System’s Minority Health Summit.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Benjamin Solomon Carson, Sr.

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