**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND KAREN C. JOINER, COORDINATOR OF THE CASS ELIAS MCCARTER GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM FOR THE 11TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, UPON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT AFTER TWENTY‑EIGHT YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE STATE, TWENTY-SEVEN OF WHICH WERE DEVOTED TO IMPROVING THE LIVES AND SAFETY OF CHILDREN, AND TO WISH HER CONTINUED SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN ALL HER FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the members of the Senate of the State of South Carolina appreciate the significant contributions that Karen C. Joiner has made as a public servant, and they are pleased to learn that she will be honored on May 23, 2013, as she begins a well‑deserved retirement; and

Whereas, for twenty‑seven of her twenty‑eight years of state service, she devoted herself to protecting the rights of abused, abandoned, and neglected children of Lexington and Saluda Counties; and

Whereas, serving as both a volunteer guardian ad litem and the circuit coordinator of the Cass Elias McCarter Guardian ad Litem program for the 11th Judicial Circuit, which includes Lexington and Saluda counties, she recruited, trained, and managed hundreds of volunteer guardians over the years while she maintained a heavy caseload; and

Whereas, Ms. Joiner was responsible for direct coordination with the South Carolina Department of Social Services, law enforcement, and the Family Court of the 11th Judicial Circuit and served as the voice of the child in numerous judicial and placement hearings; and

Whereas, in one precedent‑setting case heard by the South Carolina Court of Appeals, Ms. Joiner’s decision to represent a child as guardian ad litem in a termination of parental rights case was upheld by the court; and

Whereas, as a dedicated advocate, she earned the respect of those with whom she interacted in her duties to protect children and her selfless compassion has enhanced the lives of countless children; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are grateful for the years of dedication that Karen C. Joiner has devoted to improving the quality of life and safety of children in our State and wish her many years of enjoyment in her retirement. Her service to the State and its most vulnerable citizens make her a shining example for all those who have chosen public service as a career. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the Senate of the State of South Carolina, by this resolution, recognize and commend Karen C. Joiner, coordinator of the Cass Elias McCarter Guardian ad Litem program for the 11th Judicial Circuit, upon the occasion of her retirement after twenty‑eight years of outstanding service to the State, twenty-seven of which were devoted to improving the lives and safety of children, and wish her continued success and happiness in all her future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Karen C. Joiner.

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