**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE BLYTHEWOOD GARDEN CLUB ON THE OCCASION OF ITS SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY AND TO COMMEND THE CLUB ON SIX DECADES OF CONTRIBUTING TO THE BEAUTIFICATION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly is pleased to note that in 2013 the Blythewood Garden Club will celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of its founding with a drop‑in during its September 19 meeting; and

Whereas, organized in 1953, the Blythewood Garden Club holds membership with the Garden Club Council of Greater Columbia, Garden Club of South Carolina, West Sandhills District, and South Atlantic Region, all of these being part of the National Council of Garden Clubs; and

Whereas, as the community’s premiere garden association, the club continues its impressive activity in fostering the love of gardening among amateurs; promoting and protecting the growth of native trees and plants, wildflowers, and birds; and encouraging civic planting and civic beauty; and

Whereas, among many activities, the Blythewood Garden Club sponsors “Keep Blythewood Beautiful,” the club’s yearly community garden/environmental program presented to the public. In addition, the club produces three updated historical publications of the popular *Blythewood Scrapbook*; and

Whereas, other projects include the Historical Carolina Fence Garden implemented, maintained, and donated to the Langford‑Nord House, home of the Blythewood Historical Society; the donation of ten pink flowering crape myrtles at the entrance of Doko Manor, the new community center; and the donation of a heritage tree and garden bench to the new Blythewood Park. The club is also assisting in promoting the community’s heritage tree program, as well as in landscaping at various local schools; and

Whereas, further efforts find the club carrying out its award‑winning garden‑therapy project, “The Nature Bears,” which teaches young children to care for our environment, and the club’s seasonal landscaping at the entrance planters into Blythewood and several other locations adds to the town’s beauty; and

Whereas, as part of its effort to make Blythewood a true beauty spot, the club sponsors a yearly Arbor Day tree planting and gives tours of some of the lovely local gardens, and it has provided decorative wrought‑iron planters, seasonal plantings, and floral arrangements to town businesses; and

Whereas, to support the local bird population, the club has put up bluebird boxes along the highway and created a bird sanctuary at a local middle school. It has also sponsored high school students to attend Camp Wildwood, created landscaping at Fairfield Nursing Home, decorated Town Hall and the Historical Society for the holidays, sponsored numerous flower shows and horticultural exhibits, pioneered recycling in Blythewood, and participated in Adopt‑a‑Highway litter pick‑up; and

Whereas, the General Assembly takes great pleasure in recognizing those who work to improve the natural beauty of the Palmetto State, and the members wish to extend their gratitude to the Blythewood Garden Club for its exemplary work toward this worthy end. 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, congratulate the Blythewood Garden Club on the occasion of its sixtieth anniversary and commend the club on six decades of contributing to the beautification of the State of South Carolina.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to the Blythewood Garden Club.

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