**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE SOUTH GREENVILLE AREA FIRE DISTRICT FOR A HALF CENTURY OF SIGNIFICANT SERVICE TO PROTECT THE CITIZENS OF THE COMMUNITY AND TO WISH THE FIREFIGHTERS AND STAFF CONTINUED SUCCESS IN THEIR VITAL WORK IN THE YEARS TO COME.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the South Greenville Area Fire District is celebrating fifty years of providing critical, life‑saving service to its community; and

Whereas, formed in 1965 as a Special Purpose District in the State, South Greenville Area Fire District was all volunteer with no paid personnel in four stations to service one hundred ten square miles. Today the department boasts seventy‑six full‑time paid employees in eight stations, servicing one hundred forty‑three square miles with an ISO (Insurance Services Rating) of three; and

Whereas, originally the South Greenville Area Fire District offered its community in southern Greenville County only fire protection, and fifty years later, the department has its own dispatch center to dispatch emergency calls for fire protection, EMS, Advance Life Support service, fire prevention, confine space, haz‑mat, and water rescue with a dive team; and

Whereas, in its fifty‑year history, the department has had only four fire chiefs: Chief Larry Berg, Chief William M. Campbell, Chief Gary Woods, and Chief Ken Taylor; and

Whereas, in May 1992, the department earned the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Appreciation award for service involvement vital to the success of a significant community event. In May 2004, the United States Marine Corps Headquarters and Service Battalion honored the department for service to their unit during Operation Enduring Freedom, and in 2005, Michelin Tire Donaldson Campus named the department Community Partner of the Year; and

Whereas, the department has been honored with numerous local awards, including a Certificate of Appreciation from Greenville County EMS in 2004 for outstanding performance for the citizens of southern Greenville County, appreciation from Eastview Baptist Church in 2005 for the service South Greenville Area Fire District provides for its community, and a proclamation from Greenville County Council in 2008 for building safety in South Greenville County; and

Whereas, nine days after Hurricane Katrina made landfall along the Louisiana border in August 2005, nine members of South Greenville Area Fire District went to assist victims of the disaster’s massive destruction. The team worked in St. Bernard’s Parish, Louisiana, for seven days, during which an American flag was recovered from the mud. The team returned with the flag which has been preserved on display as a reminder of the hurricane’s devastation; and

Whereas, on September 11, 2011, the New York City Fire Department recognized the South Greenville Area Fire District for service to their department during the attacks sustained on the World Trade Center eleven years earlier; and

Whereas, since 2005, South Greenville Area Fire District has received over 1.2 million dollars in grants from the Department of Homeland Security to fund new firefighting equipment, personal protective clothing, communications equipment, and a new station; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives commends the South Greenville Area Fire District firefighters and support staff who selflessly provide life-saving services to citizens of the Palmetto State. 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 the South Greenville Area Fire District for a half century of significant service to protect the citizens of the community and wish the firefighters and staff continued success in their vital work in the years to come.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to South Greenville Fire Chief Ken Taylor.

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