**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR WAYNE COFFMAN, CLEMSON UNIVERSITY DIRECTOR OF FOOTBALL ACADEMIC SERVICES, FOR HIS THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO CONGRATULATE HIM UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT, AND TO WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives have learned that in May 2015 Wayne Coffman, Clemson University director of football academic services, will begin a well‑deserved retirement after a distinguished career spanning thirty years of faithful and outstanding service to the citizens of the Palmetto State; and

Whereas, Wayne Coffman’s journey to his present position began when he took up running for his high school track and cross country teams as a way to stay in shape after his junior season of football. When Wayne was a senior, his track coach persuaded him to concentrate only on running because of his natural ability. During his single competitive running season in high school, Wayne finished third in the state of Virginia in cross country and broke the state record for the indoor and outdoor two‑mile race. His impressive performances garnered the attention of numerous college head coaches, and Clemson University was the young athlete’s choice for his academic and athletic college career; and

Whereas, during his undergraduate years (1978‑1981), Wayne Coffman was a Clemson track and field student‑athlete. As his undergraduate career wound to a close, the school created a women’s track and field program. He was able to capitalize on his time as a student‑athlete by becoming a graduate assistant with the new program and eventually became its head coach at the age of twenty‑seven. He served at this post from 1985 to 1997, leading his team to the first‑ever ACC women’s track and field and women’s cross country championships. For his exemplary labors, he was named ACC Coach of the Year five times; and

Whereas, in preparation for his life’s work, Wayne Coffman received his bachelor’s degree in business and his master’s degree in education counseling, both at Clemson; and

Whereas, although a dedicated and successful coach, Wayne Coffman eventually decided to commit more time to his family and begin the next phase of his career in academic advising. In 1997, therefore, he joined Clemson’s Vickery Hall staff as an athletic academic advisor. During his career, he has worked with student‑athletes from almost every sport on campus and has sought to ensure that all of them stay on a path to graduation. Proof of his success: Clemson student‑athletes have finished in the top ten nationally in graduation rates four years running; and

Whereas, recently, Wayne Coffman, who still bleeds orange, was named to the Clemson Hall of Fame for his contributions as an athlete and coach; and

Whereas, on the home front, Wayne is the proud husband of Miriam Coffman and the equally proud father of two children, Chelcee and Chandler; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives is grateful for the legacy of leadership Wayne Coffman has bestowed on this great State and appreciates the long and enduring guidance he has given its citizens. The members take great pleasure in wishing him well as he enters retirement and trust he will find much enjoyment in the more leisurely pace of the days ahead. 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 Wayne Coffman, Clemson University director of football academic services, for his thirty years of service to the people of South Carolina, congratulate him upon the occasion of his retirement, and wish him continued success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Wayne Coffman.

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