**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR RITA PARKER, OWNER OF PARKERS CARPET ONE FLOOR AND HOME, FOR HER SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO ASSIST DISABLED VETERANS AND TO CONGRATULATE HER FOR BEING HONORED BY THE STEPHEN SILLER TUNNEL TO TOWERS FOUNDATION.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that Rita Parker was honored by the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation on Tuesday, May 19, 2015, for her efforts as an independent business owner and operator to help catastrophically injured servicemen; and

Whereas, the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation is an organization founded in memory of New York City firefighter Stephen Siller who was killed during the 9/11 terrorist attacks; and

Whereas, retired New York City firefighter Charlie Gussmann went to Parkers Carpet One in Spartanburg to present the award, a shadowbox containing a small square of “hallowed” steel from ground zero of the World Trade Center; and

Whereas, Parkers Carpet One donated all the carpeting, flooring, tile, and the installation for homes being built for these injured servicemen by Building for America’s Bravest (BFAB); and

Whereas, BFAB, one of the foundation’s initiatives focused on building high‑tech “smart homes” for service members returning from war with devastating injuries, has completed twenty homes already, and another fourteen are in the process of being built; and

Whereas, with the generous donations and assistance of independent owner‑operators like Rita Parker, the foundation’s BFAB will be able to accomplish its goal of building two hundred smart homes for disabled veterans; and

Whereas, Carpet One started a donation program by asking patrons to contribute ten dollars at the point of sale, and the company estimates that, if only ten percent of its customers give to the program each year, it could raise eight hundred thousand dollars in capital, enough for two smart homes; and

Whereas, a former educator and the wife of the Honorable Steve Parker, once a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives, Ms. Parker has met some of the injured veterans who have received smart homes, and the experience of meeting these heroes ignited her passion for the initiative; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is deeply grateful to Rita Parker for her profound impact on the lives of these disabled service members and for the enthusiasm she exhibits as she serves and involves her community in addressing this grave issue with a hope‑filled enterprise. 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 Rita Parker, owner of Parkers Carpet One Floor and Home, for her significant contributions to assist disabled veterans and congratulate her for being honored by the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Rita Parker.

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