**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA ON ITS OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS, TO HONOR THE INSTITUTION’S COMMITMENT TO QUALITY EDUCATION, TO WISH CONTINUED SUCCESS IN ALL THE SCHOOL’S FUTURE ENDEAVORS, AND TO RECOGNIZE FEBRUARY 3, 2016, AS “CAROLINA DAY” AT THE STATE HOUSE.

Whereas, the University of South Carolina (Carolina) serves nearly three hundred thousand alumni and fifty thousand students on eight campuses, with thousands of faculty members dedicated to providing the highest‑quality education in more than three hundred fifty programs; and

Whereas, Carolina is one of only a handful of public universities in the nation to receive the Carnegie Foundation’s highest research designation and to be named among the nation’s leaders in providing programs that benefit and engage communities; and

Whereas, by educating tomorrow’s healthcare professionals and finding new medical solutions through research and educational programs, Carolina makes South Carolina healthier; and

Whereas, by focusing on improving K‑12 education, building partnerships with businesses, and encouraging entrepreneurship, Carolina makes South Carolina more prosperous; and

Whereas, by collecting, documenting, preserving, and showcasing so many aspects of our rich history and by hosting and sponsoring hundreds of concerts, exhibitions, demonstrations, lectures, and sporting events each year, Carolina makes South Carolina more vibrant; and

Whereas, Carolina has forty‑seven nationally ranked academic programs, including the nation’s number‑one Honors College, the nation’s number‑one undergraduate international business major and international MBA at the Darla Moore School of Business, the nation’s number‑one doctoral program in exercise science, and the nation’s number‑one online graduate nursing program. Carolina ranks in the top twenty‑five for eleven of its graduate programs, and three of its campuses are ranked among the top public regional colleges in the South (USC Aiken is ranked number one, USC Upstate is ranked number three, and USC Beaufort is ranked number six); and

Whereas, named by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the most fiscally efficient universities in the nation and by *Kiplinger*’*s Personal Finance* and *Princeton Review* as a “Best Value” in public colleges, Carolina is a top producer of U.S. Fulbright students, and its students have earned twenty‑one million dollars in national awards for advanced study; and

Whereas, Carolina claims two national coaches of the year, and its student‑athletes shine academically with an average GPA of 3.22. Gamecock athletics’ commitment to education is further reflected in its current streak of eighteen consecutive semesters with a departmental GPA of at least 3.0 and in its leading the Southeastern Conference Freshman Academic Honor Roll for the past eight years. In addition, the school boasts a nationally ranked men’s basketball team, a two‑time national championship baseball team, an equestrian team that has won three national titles, including the 2015 title, and the number two‑ranked women’s basketball team, among other stellar sports groups; and

Whereas, the Carolina Alumni Association, first formed in 1846, enthusiastically serves Carolina’s vibrant alumni population through numerous opportunities for alumni engagement, programs to support current students, scholarships, and the USC Alumni Center, a place to honor memories at Carolina while connecting for a lifetime to the University and the State; and

Whereas, the University of South Carolina continues to be a source of pride for its alumni and for the Palmetto State, enriching the lives of its students and building a better community throughout South Carolina. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate the University of South Carolina on its outstanding achievements, honor the institution’s commitment to quality education, wish continued success in all the school’s future endeavors, and recognize February 3, 2016, as “Carolina Day” at the State House.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Dr. Harris Pastides, president of the University of South Carolina.

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