**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE KATHLEEN MAE WADE OF COLUMBIA, DATABASE SPECIALIST FOR HAND MIDDLE SCHOOL, ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT AND TO EXTEND BEST WISHES FOR MUCH HAPPINESS AND FULFILLMENT IN THE YEARS TO COME.

Whereas, after a lifetime of varied and dedicated service that consistently has evidenced professional knowledge, skill, and experience, Kathleen Mae Wade of Columbia, database specialist for Hand Middle School, will begin a well‑deserved retirement in June 2016; and

Whereas, in preparation for her career, Kathy, as she is affectionately known, received her early education at Columbia High School. This Columbia native graduated from the University of South Carolina and is an alumni of the Budget and Control Board Executive Institute; and

Whereas, over the course of her career, Kathy has enjoyed variety in the duties and challenges of her work. Early on, she moved to Washington, D.C., to work for Senator Strom Thurmond, followed by service with South Carolina National Bank. She served on Governor Dick Riley’s legislative team and worked closely with Chief Counsel Dwight Drake on the Education Improvement Act of 1984; and

Whereas, she served as executive director of the South Carolina Democratic Party and later as director of licensing for the South Carolina Alcohol Beverage Control Commission. As a lobbyist with Billy Keyserling and Associates, Kathy’s major project was working with the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) on the local penny sales tax initiative. Among the other positions Kathy has filled with such distinction are legislative liaison for MASC, and, finally, her present post as database specialist for Hand Middle School; and

Whereas, Kathy Wade believes strongly in personal involvement with her community, and her convictions have led her to serve that community in several capacities. These include service with the Young Democrats, as a longtime volunteer with Meals on Wheels, and as president of the Rosewood Elementary PTO, Rosewood Elementary School Improvement Council, Hand Middle School PTO, and Dreher High School PTO. She was very much involved in the drafting of the award submissions that brought Hand Middle praise as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence and a Palmetto’s Finest Award winner. She also played a critical role in the district board’s decision to build the new Dreher High School at its historical location, rather than further out of the city. On the home front, she was an avid “Soccer Mom.” As a woman of faith, she is a member of St. John’s Episcopal Church in Columbia; and

Whereas, Kathy finds strength for her labors in the strong support of her family: her husband, Val Valenta; her children, Benton (Merrill) Wislinski, Trey (Angie) Valenta, and Michael (Holly) Valenta; and three delightful grandchildren, Mae, Alec, and Owen; and

Whereas, appreciative of Kathy Wade’s long commitment to excellence in whatever work she has undertaken, the House extends grateful thanks for her service to the citizens of this great State. The members trust she 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, congratulate Kathleen Mae Wade of Columbia, database specialist for Hand Middle School, on the occasion of her retirement and extend best wishes for much happiness and fulfillment in the years to come.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Kathleen Mae Wade.

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