**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR DENISE THIGPEN OF HORRY COUNTY, FOUNDER AND CEO OF WHOLESALE BOUTIQUE, AND TO CONGRATULATE HER FOR BEING NAMED THE 2016 SOUTH CAROLINA FEMALE BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR BY THE UNITED STATES SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to learn that Denise Thigpen was honored by the United States Small Business Administration as its 2016 South Carolina Female Business Person of the Year at a luncheon held in Columbia on May 4, 2016 as part of the State’s annual National Small Business Week event; and

Whereas, Ms. Thigpen’s distinguished business career began from a desire to increase her household income, which inspired her to launch a small retail business in 1998 with only a five thousand dollar investment. The business quickly flourished due to her creativity and unique product designs, and soon expanded to six retail locations; and

Whereas, viewing other area retailers as fellow entrepreneurs rather than competitors, Ms. Thigpen generously shared the benefit of her business experience and wisdom to help them overcome familiar obstacles and achieve success; and

Whereas, in 2006, Ms. Thigpen conceived a different approach to supporting her fellow retailers by partnering with them as a wholesale supplier, and she launched what became Wholesale Boutique while phasing out her retail operations; and

Whereas, as technological advancements and the growth of electronic commerce changed customer expectations and public shopping habits, Ms. Thigpen deftly guided the transformation of Wholesale Boutique from its original wholesale model to a more cutting edge and responsive electronic commerce platform. Just as Ms. Thigpen spearheaded evolutions in Wholesale Boutique’s overall business format, she likewise drove innovations in its accounting, order management application, warehouse, and inventory functions; and

Whereas, today Wholesale Boutique reliably supplies its customers with a variety of products that combine high style with low prices, including market totes, bags, hats, and jewelry that can be personalized. The business thrives on a solid foundation built by Ms. Thigpen with the inspiration of her customers’ loyalty and a firm commitment to her family and employees; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives greatly appreciates the tremendous pride and recognition that Denise Thigpen brings to her business and community, and the members celebrate her selection as the 2016 South Carolina Female Business Person of the Year. 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 Denise Thigpen of Horry County, founder and CEO of Wholesale Boutique, and congratulate her for being named the 2016 South Carolina Female Business Person of the Year by the United States Small Business Administration.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Denise Thigpen.

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