**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR GARY LONG, FORMER MAYOR OF FOUNTAIN INN, FOR HIS FIFTEEN YEARS OF OUTSTANDING AND DEDICATED SERVICE ON THE CITY COUNCIL OF FOUNTAIN INN.

Whereas, it is altogether fitting and proper that the members of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina should pause in their deliberations to express their gratitude to Gary Long for his significant contributions to the citizens of Fountain Inn; and

Whereas, when first elected to the Fountain Inn City Council in 2001, Mr. Long was enjoying a successful career as a public school educator, spanning more than three decades. For twenty‑five years, he served as a teacher, coach, and assistant principal and then eleven years as a principal at Taylors Elementary School, Ellen Woodside Elementary School, and Tigerville Elementary School; and

Whereas, in 2003, he was elected as mayor and was reelected for two more terms, serving until the end of 2015, during which Fountain Inn experienced a revitalization, impressive by any standards; and

Whereas, when he was first elected, downtown buildings were not even half occupied, and when he left office, space in the downtown buildings was at a premium, being ninety‑five to one hundred percent full. New businesses poured into the outskirts of Fountain Inn, seeking and gaining access in the city limits by annexation; and

Whereas, recently, the last major portion of a ten‑part master plan for the city, its most expensive portion, was finalized, namely the revitalization of Main Street to include the expansion of sidewalks and landscaping them with trees and plants; and

Whereas, during his tenure, Mr. Long provided inspiring leadership for and direction of that plan, which involved the development of Commerce Park, a farmer’s market, an amphitheater, the Fountain Inn History Museum, and a new location for Fountain Inn’s Chamber of Commerce; and

Whereas, he lobbied from the state capitol to the nation’s capitol for Fountain Inn, a small town determined to revive itself, even forging ahead through the difficult recession in 2008; and

Whereas, believing that public service marks a life with significance and not the trappings of success and fame, he actively sought opportunities to serve his community in the midst of a busy career as a professional educator; and

Whereas, Mr. Long’s extensive service to his community includes serving weekly with Meals on Wheels for over ten years and membership in the Fountain Inn Rotary Club for more than ten years, and he served as an elected member of the South Carolina Municipal Association Board; and

Whereas, a faithful member of Fountain Inn First Baptist Church, he has served the congregation for more than twenty‑five years as a Sunday school teacher and deacon; and

Whereas, Gary Long looks forward to more family time, especially enjoying his nine adoring grandchildren, and the South Carolina House of Representatives appreciates his vital service to the citizens of Fountain Inn and wishes him continued success and happiness in all his future endeavors. 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 Gary Long, former Mayor of Fountain Inn, for his fifteen years of outstanding and dedicated service on the City Council of Fountain Inn.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Gary Long.

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