**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE WHITE HORSE IN ROCK HILL AND TO CONGRATULATE THE OWNER, MARSHA PURSLEY, AND THE LOYAL STAFF AND CUSTOMERS FOR FORTY YEARS OF OUTSTANDING AND DISTINCTIVE SERVICE AND CAMARADERIE WITH THE COMMUNITY.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is delighted to learn that the White Horse restaurant on Camden Avenue in Rock Hill celebrated a fortieth anniversary bash with throwback prices on Saturday, May 21, 2016, amid live music, well wishes from faithful and satisfied patrons, and tables heaped with food; and

Whereas, like *Cheers*, the popular television sitcom series of the 1980s, about a bar where “everybody knows your name,” the iconic Rock Hill White Horse restaurant has not reined in the welcoming atmosphere and unique ambience to the Rock Hill community; and

Whereas, when “Skeeter” enters the White Horse at five o’clock, friends holler out greetings to him, regulars who gather together with such nicknames as the Master Blaster and Jethro and Sunshine and Jim Bob and some names too infamous to mention; and

Whereas, the restaurant and bar, which began in 1976 with a small kitchen and refrigerator in an old house, have survived competition from chain restaurants, the violent destruction of hurricanes, battering recessions, and changes to the state drinking law; and

Whereas, in 1978, fifteen‑year‑old Tommy Sacco started washing dishes at “The Horse,” part of a Charlotte‑based chain with ten locations, but the one in Rock Hill was the only horse to finish that race without having to be put down due to injury. While earning a biology degree from Winthrop, he never left the White Horse, becoming a partner in 1986 and sole owner from 1998 to 2014; and

Whereas, in the 1990s, Mr. Sacco built the unique new building, curiously round and square at the same time, with a pointed top. Inside two statues of white horse heads greet customers to the small bar and the restaurant that takes center stage; and

Whereas, not only has the White Horse establishment survived, but so have its signature logo of a Lady Godiva figure astride a horse and the menu that has remained nearly the same for forty years; and

Whereas, photos of Clint Eastwood as Dirty Harry and Marilyn Monroe and even one of the opening day forty years ago punctuate the atmosphere of the restaurant and bar; and

Whereas, most of the tables and booths have nameplates from customers, some of the tens of thousands who have enjoyed White Horse steaks and burgers and pizzas and anything that can be fried or baked or grilled, who sat there so often for so long and wanted to tell the world where they kissed or got engaged or felt loved; and

Whereas, the White Horse is the one place in Rock Hill where politicians and judges and a crowd of Winthrop University professors and students and someone down on his luck might sit at adjacent tables or raise glasses to one another at the bar; and

Whereas, over the years, owners, staff, and customers who all have big hearts, have contributed untold thousands of dollars to a myriad of charities; and

Whereas, in 2014, Mr. Sacco sold the White Horse to longtime employee and friend, Marsha Pursley who began working there out of college fifteen years ago. She too never left, and now she works to maintain an establishment where regulars and staff and neighbors who drop in know and care about each other. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognizes and honors the White Horse in Rock Hill and congratulates the owner, Marsha Pursley, and the loyal staff and customers for forty years of outstanding and distinctive service and camaraderie with the community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Marsha Pursley.

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