**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO COMMEND THE HONORABLE JOEL LOURIE FOR HIS TWELVE YEARS OF COMMITTED SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF SENATE DISTRICT 22 IN KERSHAW AND RICHLAND COUNTIES AND SIX YEARS OF COMMITTED SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF HOUSE DISTRICT 78 IN RICHLAND COUNTY AND TO WISH HIM CONTENTMENT AND SUCCESS IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, for twelve years, the Honorable Joel Lourie has represented the citizens of Senate District 22 in Kershaw and Richland counties and for six years in House District 78 in Richland County with faithful integrity and his characteristic good sense of humor in the Senate of this great State; and

Whereas, in preparation for his career, Joel Lourie, a businessman, completed his undergraduate studies at the University of South Carolina in 1984; and

Whereas, during his time of service in the Senate (2005‑2016), Joel Lourie has proven his worth as a member of the Banking and Insurance Committee, Corrections and Penology Committee, Finance Committee, General Committee, and Medical Affairs Committee; and

Whereas, during his time of service in the House of Representatives (1999‑2004), Joel Lourie served on the Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Committee and the Education and Public Works Committee; and

Whereas, in serving as a member of the South Carolina Legislature, Senator Joel Lourie has carried forward his family’s rich history of public service. His father, the late Isadore Lourie, served in both the House of Representatives (1965‑1972) and the Senate (1973‑1992). Prior to his own service in the Senate, Joel Lourie served in the House of Representatives, as did his father before him; and

Whereas, as a member of the South Carolina Legislature for eighteen years, Joel Lourie distinguished himself as a tireless advocate for the state’s most vulnerable citizens, and his concern for victims of crime in our State is perhaps unmatched. His efforts and support of Emma’s Law which revised and strengthened driving under the influence laws in the State were instrumental in its passage. In addition, beginning with his service in the House and continuing throughout his service in the Senate, the senator championed and was instrumental in the passage of insurance coverage for persons with autism, seatbelt legislation, and child restraint safety legislation; and

Whereas, in recognition of his dedicated service to his fellow citizens, Joel Lourie has been granted various honors, among them the 2000 South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Legislator of the Year Award, 2000 South Carolina Association of Nonprofit Organizations Distinguished Service Award, 2003 National Association of Social Workers Legislator of the Year Award, 2005 South Carolina Public Health Association Legislator of the Year Award, 2006 National Transportation Safety Board State Safety Leadership Award, 2007 Star of Justice Award‑‑Protection and Advocacy for People With Disabilities, Inc., 2008 South Carolina Alive At 25 Program Advocate of the Year Award, the 2009 Champion of Health Care Award, and 2011 South Carolina Recreation and Parks Association Legislator of the Year Award; and

Whereas, as a proud husband, he finds his beloved wife of twenty‑eight years, Rebecca Baum Lourie, a blessing and draws his strength from her strong support. The Louries are the delighted parents of two remarkable children, Rachel, twenty‑four, and Sam, twenty‑one; and

Whereas, Joel Lourie’s colleagues in the General Assembly thank him for his dedication to the people of Senate District 22 and House District 78 and extend heartiest wishes for all the best life has to offer in the coming years. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, commend the Honorable Joel Lourie for his twelve years of committed service to the citizens of Senate District 22 in Kershaw and Richland counties and six years of committed service to the citizens of House District 78 in Richland County and wish him contentment and success in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to our distinguished colleague, the Honorable Joel Lourie.

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