**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE SIGNIFICANT AND DISTINCTIVE ROLE OF THE PIEDMONT CLUB IN SPARTANBURG AND TO CONGRATULATE ITS MEMBERS AS THEY CELEBRATE THE MILESTONE OF THEIR SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the members of The Piedmont Club in Spartanburg will celebrate their seventy-fifth anniversary on June 5, 2016; and

Whereas, The Piedmont Club developed out of Walter Montgomery’s desire to meet the needs of the growing number of businessmen who were drawn to Spartanburg by the booming textile industry and who needed a nice place to stay with good food; and

Whereas, Eloise Montgomery Barnwell and Victor Montgomery, Jr., offered the use of the Montgomery house, and The Piedmont Club was founded on June 5, 1941, by its ten original sponsors; and

Whereas, the Montgomery house, designed by Walter Scott Montgomery and built in 1893, bears the distinctive Queen Anne style of architecture introduced to America in 1876, featuring towers, dormers, bay windows, and corbelled chimneys. The irregular roof lines and decorative wrap‑around porches of the unique Montgomery house showcase its coursed shingles, clapboards, and inset panels of sawn wooden ornamentation; and

Whereas, at the first annual meeting of The Piedmont Club held on January 20, 1942, A. B. Taylor was elected the first president, along with R. Z. Cates as the vice president, and M. W. Vannerson as the secretary and treasurer, and twenty men provided the initial ten thousand dollar capital needed for the club’s organization; and

Whereas, in the beginning, the Club operated seven days a week, renting upstairs bedrooms to visitors, and by the 1950s, the Club had stopped renting rooms but continued providing dining services in the original dining room, now called the Kate Barry Room; and

Whereas, in 1949, the Board of Governors exercised the option to purchase the property, and ownership of the club property was transferred for the payment of twelve thousand dollars; and

Whereas, to accommodate expanding membership, the Club purchased adjacent properties as recently as 1975. A large dining room and several private dining rooms were built during major renovations in the 1970s, and by 2001, further expansion included a new formal dining, informal dining and lounge, porte cochere, and a courtyard porch. In 2007, many of the original Queen Anne features were restored in the current design of the house; and

Whereas, in 1988, the addition of a non‑discrimination article to the by-laws ensured welcome to members regardless of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. The first female and minority members were admitted in 1989, and in 2010, Dr. Elizabeth A. Fleming was the first female elected to serve on the Board; and

Whereas, while The Piedmont Club has experienced many changes in membership over the years, it has maintained high standards for membership and a strong sense of tradition without resisting change, reflected in the growth and diversification of its membership; and

Whereas, although The Piedmont Club began primarily to meet business‑oriented needs, it has expanded to more social use through such activities as family nights, wine tastings, cooking demonstrations, happy hours, and theme dinners; and

Whereas, since the founding of The Piedmont Club, its Board of Governors has remained committed to the goal of providing great food and excellent service in comfortable surroundings and has sought to meet the needs of the members throughout periods of growth and change. 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 the significant and distinctive role of The Piedmont Club in Spartanburg and congratulate its members as they celebrate the milestone of their seventy-fifth anniversary.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Emerson Fort Wolfe, Jr., President of the Board of Governors.

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