**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR JOSEPH P. RILEY, JR., MAYOR OF CHARLESTON, FOR HIS SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITY AND TO CONGRATULATE HIM FOR FORTY YEARS OF OUTSTANDING AND DEDICATED SERVICE.

Whereas, born in the “Holy City” in 1943, Joe Riley graduated from Bishop England High School, and in 1964, he earned a bachelor’s degree from The Citadel; and

Whereas, in 1967, he earned a juris doctorate from the University of South Carolina School of Law and a year later was elected to the state’s House of Representatives, where he served for six years; and

Whereas, first elected mayor of Charleston in December 1975, Mayor Riley is serving an unprecedented tenth term and is widely considered one of the most visionary and highly effective governmental leaders in the nation; and

Whereas, under his leadership, Charleston has increased its commitment to racial harmony, achieved a substantial decrease in crime, developed affordable and nationally‑acclaimed housing, experienced revitalization of its historic business district, seen the creation and growth of Spoleto Festival U.S.A., added significantly to the city’s park system, and seen record population growth; and

Whereas, Mayor Riley has led a city government with extraordinary innovation, and the City of Charleston is recognized as one of the most livable and progressive cities in the United States; and

Whereas, among the mayor’s numerous awards, he received the 2009 National Medal of the Arts at the White House from President Barack Obama for cultivating Charleston’s historic and cultural resources to enhance public spaces and for revitalizing urban centers throughout the nation as founder of the Mayors’ Institute on City Design. In 2010, the American Architectural Foundation and the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) created the Joseph P. Riley, Jr. Award for Leadership in City Design in his honor; and

Whereas, an honorary member of the American Institute of Architecture and the American Society of Landscape Architects, Mayor Riley was honored in 2002 with the American Architectural Foundation’s Keystone Award. He received the American Society of Landscape Architects’ Olmsted Medal in 2004 and the South Carolina Governor’s Award in the Humanities in 2005; and

Whereas, Mayor Riley has received the Outstanding Mayors Award from the National Urban Coalition and, in 2000, was named the recipient of the first USCM President’s Award for outstanding leadership and the first Urban Land Institute J. C. Nichols Prize for Visionary Urban Development; and

Whereas, he was awarded the 1994 Thomas Jefferson Award from the American Institute of Architects for Public Architecture and the Arthur J. Clement Award in Race Relations for his battle to remove the Confederate flag from the South Carolina State House; and

Whereas, Mayor Riley has received the Order of the Palmetto, has been named South Carolinian of the Year, and was given the 1982 Verner Award by the South Carolina Arts Commission; and

Whereas, from 1986 to 1987, he served as president of the USCM and currently is a member of the USCM’s Executive Committee. He served as president of the National Association of Democratic Mayors from 1988 to 1992; and

Whereas, he has received honorary degrees from The Citadel, the University of South Carolina, Clemson University, the Medical University of South Carolina, Winthrop University, and the College of Charleston; and

Whereas, together with his beloved wife, Charlotte, Mayor Riley reared two fine sons, Joe and Bratton; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate appreciates the national and international acclaim that Joe Riley has brought to the City of Charleston and to the Palmetto State through his vision, his leadership, and his impressive accomplishments. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and honor Joseph P. Riley, Jr., Mayor of Charleston, for his significant contributions to the city and congratulate him for forty years of outstanding and dedicated service.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr.

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