**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR BRYAN “JAY” KOON FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CAREER IN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND TO CONGRATULATE HIM FOR BEING ELECTED AS THE THIRTY‑NINTH SHERIFF OF LEXINGTON COUNTY.

Whereas, the members of the Senate of the State of South Carolina are pleased to learn that Bryan “Jay” Koon was sworn in as the thirty‑ninth Sheriff of Lexington County on Friday, April 24, 2015; and

Whereas, a lifelong resident of Lexington County and an Eagle Scout, Jay Koon graduated from Lexington High School in 1990; and

Whereas, recognizing his calling to public service, he earned a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from the University of South Carolina in 1994, where he commenced his career in law enforcement in 1993 as a reserve police officer for the University of South Carolina Division of Law Enforcement and Safety; and

Whereas, in 1994, Jay Koon began a twenty‑year career with the Town of Lexington Police Department, being promoted quickly and rising through the ranks as a detective, patrol sergeant, watch commander, special operations lieutenant, and assistant chief of police; and

Whereas, an alumnus of Leadership Lexington County, he also graduated from the FBI National Academy in 2008; and

Whereas, asked to join the transitional leadership team for the Lexington County Sheriff’s Department by then Sheriff A. Lewis McCarty in June of 2014, he was instrumental in refocusing emphasis on basic law enforcement services in the department; and

Whereas, Sheriff Koon was sworn into office on April 24, 2015, and has begun to serve the citizens of Lexington County, dedicated to being accountable to the taxpayers, to continuing to decrease crime rates, and to reducing response times; and

Whereas, actively engaged in his community, Sheriff Koon has volunteered as a coach and leader of several youth baseball programs and Scout groups; and

Whereas, he serves on the Lexington Technology Center’s Advisory Board, is president of the FBI National Academy Associates Chapter for South Carolina, and is an active member of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Officers’ Association and the Lexington County Law Enforcement Officers Association; and

Whereas, Sheriff Koon and his beloved wife, Kim, his high school sweetheart and a teacher at Pleasant Hill Middle School, have both dedicated their professional careers to serving the citizens of Lexington County; and

Whereas, this couple has two fine children, Jacob and Katie. In addition to their other extracurricular activities, Jacob is currently involved in high school and travel lacrosse, and Katie is a talented athlete in her own right following in the footsteps of her mom; and

Whereas, Sheriff Koon and his family are loyal and active members of Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church, whose lives are guided in every aspect by their faith; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate appreciates the distinguished career of Sheriff Jay Koon, and the members wish him well as he begins his service as the chief law enforcement officer in Lexington County. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the Senate of the State of South Carolina recognize and honor Bryan “Jay” Koon for his outstanding career in law enforcement and congratulate him for being elected as the thirty‑ninth Sheriff of Lexington County.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Bryan “Jay” Koon.

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