**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR JUANITA DAVENPORT “NITA” HOZEY, OWNER AND SOLE OPERATOR OF PRAISE UNLIMITED WEDDINGS, LLC, AND TO CONGRATULATE HER FOR BEING NAMED THE 2015 SOUTH CAROLINA WOMEN IN BUSINESS ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly are pleased to learn that Juanita Davenport “Nita” Hozey has been honored by the United States Small Business Administration as the 2015 South Carolina Women in Business Advocate of the Year; and

Whereas, when Nita Hozey’s husband retired from his career in 2001, they decided, after having served for twenty‑two years as foster parents to more than ninety children, that it was the right time for their long and successful season of foster parenting to end; and

Whereas, during her years as a foster mother, friends and relatives would ask her to plan their weddings, which she found deeply gratifying, so Mrs. Hozey decided she wanted to start a wedding planning business. She promised her husband two stipulations: she would assume no business debt, and he would remain retired; and

Whereas, in 2002, she launched Praise Unlimited Weddings, LLC, in their home, which rapidly expanded from their living room to an enclosed carport to an outbuilding. Thirteen years later, their property has seven outbuildings filled with wedding and banquet apparatus, and she has maintained her debt‑free commitment; and

Whereas, when Mrs. Hozey started her business, she began an annual Bridal Expo sponsored by Praise Unlimited Weddings to organize wedding vendors including photographers, caterers, seamstresses, and other wedding planners. Originally twenty vendors drew local notice; today over a hundred vendors attract regional acclaim; and

Whereas, five years ago, she created and began teaching a wedding and event management course at Piedmont Technical College to share her knowledge of the business. Outside of class, she mentors students starting businesses and even takes them to her events; and

Whereas, when Mrs. Hozey has more work than she can manage by herself, she often contracts the work out to her former students, giving them on‑the‑job training under her expert tutelage; and

Whereas, actively engaged in the Abbeville and Greenwood Chambers of Commerce, she donates her services for local charity fundraisers, including A Place for Us Ministries, Jaycees, Abbeville Opera House, Crossroads Women’s Center, Faith Home, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Meg’s House, and United Way; and

Whereas, Nita Hozey now serves in her sixth year as the president of the Business Professional Women’s Club, and she has been honored as a Who’s Who Small Business Woman in 2012 and with a South Carolina Woman of Accomplishment Award in 2007; and

Whereas, as a devoted church member, she teaches Sunday school, conducts a puppet ministry, facilitates a biannual community consignment sale, and helps needy families during the holidays; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly appreciates the amazing entrepreneurial spirit that Nita Hozey exhibits, and the members congratulate her for the redounding success of Praise Unlimited Weddings, LLC. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, recognize and honor Juanita Davenport “Nita” Hozey, owner and sole operator of Praise Unlimited Weddings, LLC, and congratulate her for being named the 2015 South Carolina Women in Business Advocate of the Year.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Juanita “Nita” Hozey.

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