**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE DR. WALLIE B. JONES OF SUMTER UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM A FORTY-YEAR CAREER IN GENERAL DENTISTRY AND TO HONOR HIM FOR HIS CONTINUED WORK WITH YOUNG MEN, TEACHING THEM BASEBALL AND LIFE SKILLS.

Whereas, the members of the Senate are pleased to learn that Dr. Wallie B. Jones and his wife, Marcia Jones, both of Sumter, began their much‑deserved retirement in April of 2015; and

Whereas, born in Richmond, Virginia, Dr. Jones grew up in Pinewood where his childhood days were spent hunting, fishing, playing baseball, and enjoying the outdoors. The Jones name has become synonymous with the game of baseball in Sumter, and Dr. Jones was taught the game by his father, the late Mr. W. Bernard “Bernie” Jones, Jr. In fact, Dr. Jones continued playing baseball throughout his high school and college days; and

Whereas, Dr. Jones played second base at the University of South Carolina for four years. During his junior and senior years, he made the all‑Atlantic Coast Conference team and was team captain his senior year; and

Whereas, Dr. Jones went on to attend and graduate from dental school at the Medical University of South Carolina. He then returned to Sumter, where he and Mrs. Jones opened his dental practice at 770 West Liberty Street on December 2, 1974. Dr. Jones spent his entire forty‑year dentistry career at the same location, and he spent that time working alongside Mrs. Jones; and

Whereas, during his early years as a dentist, Dr. Jones would work five and a half days a week in order to attract and retain new patients. The aspect of practicing dentistry he enjoyed most was his patients, the majority of whom became his dear friends. The excellent dental care provided by Dr. Jones and his staff, coupled with the friendships fostered in his examination rooms accounted for very strong loyalty within his clientele. As such, it would not be unusual for Dr. Jones and his staff to eventually see three generations within the same family; and

Whereas, Dr. Jones began coaching American Legion baseball as a “part-time” job that proved to be anything but part-time. For twenty‑five years, he coached the team sponsored by American Legion Post 15 in Sumter, which is the second oldest American Legion team in the country in continuous operation, and the oldest in South Carolina. The success that Dr. Jones enjoyed during his run with the “P-15’s” is unprecedented and unrivaled. He led the team to nine state titles, two Southeast Regional crowns, and two World Series appearances‑one in 2006, where the team finished fourth in the country, and one in 2008, where they finished third in the nation. His career record coaching the P‑15’s is 637‑187. He coached many players who went on to achieve great success at both the collegiate and professional levels, and he played an instrumental role in molding countless young men into productive members of society; and

Whereas, now retired from both American Legion coaching and dentistry, Dr. Jones is operating a Christian-based baseball camp, “Safe at Home,” from the home he shares with Mrs. Jones. The opportunity for tutelage under Dr. Jones attracts young men who love baseball to the camp, but Dr. Jones seeks to teach them much more than the game. Dr. Jones’ young charges (who often include his grandchildren) learn the game of baseball, but with an emphasis on life’s real values‑love for the Lord, one’s family and country, and respect for one’s elders. He teaches his students how to shake hands and how to show respect to their parents and other adults, and Dr. and Mrs. Jones conduct this important local ministry of teaching the values of living a Christian life at no charge; and

Whereas, Dr. and Mrs. Jones raised two children: Jay Jones and Meri Jones DesChamps, and the couple enjoys the company of their five grandchildren; and

Whereas, a member of First Baptist Church of Sumter for thirty‑seven years, Dr. Jones serves as a Sunday School teacher to men ages eighty and over, and as a deacon; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are appreciative of the positive impact that Dr. Jones has had on countless young men throughout the years using baseball to teach them values, and trust that he will find continued happiness and reward through his baseball camps and his family in this new pace of life. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the Senate, by this resolution, congratulate Dr. Wallie B. Jones of Sumter upon the occasion of his retirement from a career in general dentistry and honor him for his work with young men, teaching them life skills and Christian values through baseball.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Dr. Wallie B. Jones.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑