**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE RBC HERITAGE PRESENTED BY BOEING GOLF TOURNAMENT HELD EACH YEAR ON HILTON HEAD ISLAND ON THE OCCASION OF ITS FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY THIS COMING APRIL AND TO RECOGNIZE AND THANK THE HERITAGE CLASSIC FOUNDATION, THE TOURNAMENT SPONSORS, AND COUNTLESS FRIENDS AND VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE MADE THIS SPECIAL EVENT SO SUCCESSFUL AND UNIQUE AMONG PGA TOUR EVENTS.

Whereas, held the week after the Masters, the RBC Heritage Presented by Boeing golf tournament boasts more than one hundred thousand spectators arriving from across the United States and around the globe annually. This allows the event to bring an estimated ninety‑six million dollars each year to the State. The tournament is proud to be one of five PGA TOUR events still played on the original course of Harbour Town Golf Links in The Sea Pines Resort, which is consistently recognized as one of the top golf courses in the United States; and

Whereas, in celebration of the fifty‑year anniversary, the Hilton Head Island historic lighthouse will have its red stripes transformed into the tournament’s traditional plaid; and

Whereas, in a tournament steeped in tradition, the RBC Heritage Presented by Boeing boasts a list of past winners that is a veritable who’s who of golf’s greatest players, including Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Bernhard Langer, Johnny Miller, Greg Norman, Nick Price, Tom Watson, Davis Love III, and Payne Stewart, among others; and

Whereas, keeping in style with the international event, the tournament is broadcast in twenty‑three languages in two hundred twenty‑six countries, reaching more than one billion households in the world each April; and

Whereas, while much has changed over the years, the tournament still maintains the unique Lowcountry hospitality and family‑friendly fun that has made the RBC Heritage Presented by Boeing one of the best stops on the tour for both players and fans; and

Whereas, in 1987, the Heritage Classic Foundation was created as the “operational arm” of the Heritage golf tournament. Since its inception, the group has given over thirty‑eight million dollars to local organizations in need across South Carolina and Georgia; and

Whereas, the Heritage Classic Foundation also supports young scholars. This fall, thirty‑four Beaufort County collegians will receive Foundation grants at an expenditure of one hundred fifty‑nine thousand dollars. Overall, a grand total of $4,124,350 will have been awarded to three hundred twenty‑two students to date; and

Whereas, the mission of the Heritage Classic Foundation is to provide the highest quality PGA TOUR golf tournament that generates significant economic impact and promotion for the Hilton Head Island‑Bluffton area, the Coastal Region, and the State of South Carolina, while generating funds for charitable causes that enhance the quality of life for all. In 2017, this mission led to the facilitation of close to two million nine hundred thousand dollars in donations. The Heritage Champions Fore Charity program has produced more than seven million two hundred thousand dollars for participating nonprofit groups. Also in 2017, the Birdies for Charity program distributed two hundred sixteen thousand dollars in pledge donations, bringing the total to five million seven hundred thousand dollars since it was created in 2000. Additionally, the nonprofit groups that staff the tournament concession stands made $247,706 for their charities in 2017; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly are grateful for the tradition and prestige the Heritage Classic Foundation has brought to the Palmetto State’s Lowcountry, effectively making Hilton Head Island the golf resort destination of choice for so many. Furthermore, the members are appreciative for the custom of charity the tournament has established and look forward to seeing the Heritage continue to flourish in years to come. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the General Assembly of South Carolina, by this resolution, congratulate the RBC Heritage Presented by Boeing golf tournament held each year on Hilton Head Island on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary this coming April and to recognize and thank the Heritage Classic Foundation, the tournament sponsors, and countless friends and volunteers who have made this special event so successful and unique among PGA TOUR events.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Heritage Classic Foundation.

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