**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR BRENDA MELTON, DIRECTOR OF DRAFTING AND PUBLICATION SERVICES FOR THE SOUTH CAROLINA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, FOR HER FORTY YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO CONGRATULATE HER ON THE OCCASION OF HER WELL‑EARNED RETIREMENT, AND TO WISH HER ALL THE BEST FOR MUCH ENJOYMENT AND FULFILLMENT IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

Whereas, for forty years, the State of South Carolina has enjoyed the benefit of the dedication and experience of Brenda Melton, who in 2018 will retire after a career of outstanding public service, the last thirty‑five of which she has served as a staff member of the South Carolina Legislative Council, where she presently is the director of drafting and publication services; and

Whereas, prior to taking up her duties at the South Carolina Legislative Council, this Camden resident served as an administrative secretary at Richland Memorial Hospital; and

Whereas, as director of drafting and publication services at Council, Brenda performs her duties with grace and a smile. Her institutional knowledge is second to none, and she is a living reference book of Council history. She has managed the act process for many years and her professionalism and integrity have inspired confidence in her and her work. She has mentored many a stenographer, attorney, and other staff at Council and through them her legacy will live on for years to come; and

Whereas, on the home front, Brenda Melton has been the proud wife of Senate Sergeant at Arms Jim Melton for nearly forty‑six years, and Brenda and Jim enjoy the company of their two grown children, Jimmy (Marnie) and Julie (Dave), and their four delightful grandchildren, Addison, Aidan, Elizabeth, and Kelly; and

Whereas, clearly, Brenda will have no shortage of projects and other activities to keep her occupied after retirement. She is an excellent baker and seamstress, and some of her needlework can be seen in the Kershaw‑Cornwallis House in Historic Camden in the newly redecorated bride’s room. Her own house has been featured on the annual Candlelight Tour of Homes in Camden, where visitors can view further examples of her exquisite handcrafted draperies and bed linens. In addition, Brenda’s home was featured in *Columbia Metropolitan* magazine, which highlighted this avid gardener’s lovely Christmas decorations, including her eye‑catching flower arrangements; and

Whereas, other retirement endeavors will include continuing her active participation at First Baptist Church of Camden, as well as helping Jim scout auctions for the elegant pieces that fill his booth at a local antiques mall. Also, since Brenda and Jim love the beach, some family trips to the South Carolina coast, and perhaps Hawaii, likely will be on the retirement agenda; and

Whereas, the General Assembly is grateful for the legacy of consistent commitment and excellence Brenda Melton has bestowed on the people of South Carolina. Her many friends in this body take great pleasure in extending best wishes as she enters retirement, and the members trust she will find much pleasure in the more leisurely pace of the days ahead. Now, therefore,

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

That the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, recognize and honor Brenda Melton, director of drafting and publication services for the South Carolina Legislative Council, for her forty years of distinguished service to the State of South Carolina, congratulate her on the occasion of her well‑earned retirement, and wish her all the best for much enjoyment and fulfillment in the years ahead.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Brenda Melton.

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