**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR WILLIAM HENRY “BILL” JOHNSON, JR., OF MARION FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF MARION COUNTY AND TO WISH HIM MUCH SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS UPON HIS RECENT RETIREMENT AS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE PEE DEE FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK.

Whereas, the son of William Henry Johnson, Sr., and Dorothy Ward Johnson, William H. “Bill” Johnson, Jr., was born in Kinston, North Carolina, on November 6, 1949. Having grown up in Wilmington, North Carolina, he graduated from New Hanover High School in 1967 and, in preparation for his career, earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration at the University of North Carolina in 1971. In 1977, Bill wed his beloved wife, the former Judy James, and the two have been happily married for thirty‑nine years; and

Whereas, elected to the Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank Board of Directors in 1992, Bill recently retired as president and CEO of the bank after a career of thirty‑five years with the organization and a total of forty‑five years in the banking industry. He continues to serve on the board in a leadership capacity; and

Whereas, this resident of Marion believes strongly in personal involvement with his community, and his convictions have led him to serve that community and the broader community of South Carolina in numerous capacities. Over the past thirty‑five years, he has served as chairman of Marion County United Way; director/chairman of the Marion Chamber of Commerce, South Carolina Savings and Loan League, and Marion Historic Revitalization Association; and director of the Marion County Habitat for Humanity and Pee Dee Education Foundation. In addition, Bill has served Marion Presbyterian Church in many important leadership positions; and

Whereas, as president and CEO of Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank and as a man who loves his community, Bill Johnson has assisted many community organizations with a number of projects. These include remodeling, and adding a kitchen to, the Marion County Museum; purchasing a new ladder truck for the City of Marion; relocating the Marion Chamber of Commerce to the historic Marion Depot; providing office space for an upgraded Office of Economic Development; granting Habitat for Humanity loans for new homeowners and funding for three homes; providing funding for three Francis Marion University scholarships for Marion County students, as well as for a chair at Francis Marion University; and

Whereas, passionate about economic development and its impact on rural communities, he worked tirelessly to create the Eastern South Carolina Alliance. He served as its chairman (2000‑2003), bringing counties together to attract new business and industry to the entire region. Continuing to promote regionalism, he was instrumental in creating the Florence Regional Airport Authority; and

Whereas, under his leadership, Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank received national recognition from the Office of Thrift Supervision for its innovative work in economic development. In addition, in 2000, Governor Jim Hodges appointed Bill Johnson as South Carolina Ambassador for Economic Development; and

Whereas, in all his labors, Bill has provided visionary counsel with integrity, drawing on his diverse business experience, as well as his small‑town values; and

Whereas, grateful for his exemplary service to the people of South Carolina, most particularly those of Marion County, the General Assembly trusts Bill Johnson will find much joy in his well‑earned retirement. 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 William Henry “Bill” Johnson, Jr., of Marion for his dedicated service to the citizens of Marion County and wish him much success and happiness in all his future endeavors upon his recent retirement as President and CEO of the Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to William Henry “Bill” Johnson, Jr.

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