**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR DEBORAH ELLISON WHITTLE OF ORANGEBURG COUNTY, A BLATT BUILDING RECEPTIONIST FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT, TO THANK HER FOR HER NEARLY TWENTY‑SEVEN YEARS OF OUTSTANDING AND DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, AND TO WISH HER MUCH SUCCESS AND FULFILLMENT IN ALL HER FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, for almost three decades, Deborah Ellison Whittle carried out her duties as a South Carolina state government staff member with poise and excellence, most recently as Blatt Building third‑floor receptionist for the House of Representatives; and

Whereas, born in Columbia to Steve and Jerusha Ellison, Debbie, as she is affectionately called, attended Springfield High School. She began work with the State of South Carolina in September 1989, when she took up her duties as a clerical helper. In time, she became committee assistant to the House Agricultural Committee, serving over the years under three chairmen. Later, she moved to the Blatt Building to serve first as second‑floor receptionist and finally as third‑floor receptionist. She brought her career to a conclusion on June 20, 2016, and commenced what her colleagues, friends, and family have no doubt will prove a fruitful retirement; and

Whereas, appreciative of her sense of humor, her colleagues will tell you Debbie always has a cheerful joke or story to share. In addition, her caring spirit endears this lovable lady to those with whom she works; and

Whereas, as a woman of faith, Debbie Whittle is an active member of Springfield Baptist Church in her community. In her family circle, she takes pleasure in the company of daughter Theresa, son Mark, and grandchildren Cameron, Brett, Austin, William, and Tristan. Debbie and her dear husband, Larry Whittle, spent more than forty happy years together before his recent passing; and

Whereas, during Debbie’s well‑earned retirement, she looks forward to more frequent indulgence in reading, in spending time with friends and family (especially those delightful grands), and in putting her camper to good use. She may even adopt another canine friend, of which she has several, in order to maintain her reputation as a lady who “will take in a stray dog in a skinny minute.” She’s particularly partial to beagles; and

Whereas, grateful for her many years of committed, excellent service to the people of South Carolina, the House of Representatives takes great pleasure in extending best wishes to Debbie Whittle as she transitions to retirement. The members trust she will find an abundance of enjoyment in the more leisurely pace of the days ahead. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor Deborah Ellison Whittle of Orangeburg County, a Blatt Building receptionist for the House of Representatives, on the occasion of her retirement, thank her for her nearly twenty‑seven years of outstanding and dedicated service to the State of South Carolina, and wish her much success and fulfillment in all her future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Deborah Ellison Whittle.

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