**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR REVEREND WILLIAM PAUL “BILL” DIECKMANN, DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS FOR THE COLUMBIA METRO BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER TWENTY‑EIGHT YEARS OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE, AND TO WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly have learned that Reverend Bill Dieckmann will begin a well‑deserved retirement on May 31, 2017, after forty years as a dedicated minister of the Gospel, the last thirteen of which have been as the highly‑regarded director of missions for the Columbia Metro Baptist Association; and

Whereas, originally from Evansville, Indiana, he came to South Carolina in 1982 as minister of education for First Baptist Church in Gaffney. He joined the staff of the Columbia Metro Baptist Association in 1989 as the associate director of missions, and was named as the association’s director of missions in 2004; and

Whereas, under Reverend Dieckmann’s vital and tireless leadership, the churches in the association have maintained vigorous spiritual health; and

Whereas, dedicated to his community, he has worked locally in an effort to combat homelessness in the city, has served on review boards for state education standards, and is a member of the Citizens Advisory Board for the Columbia Police Department; and

Whereas, Reverend Dieckmann has responded to disasters nationally, including 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina, and he played a pivotal role in disaster‑relief efforts during the South Carolina floods of October 2015 by coordinating and mobilizing temporary shelters and emergency supplies; and

Whereas, besides being a contributor to children’s devotionals and materials for youth discipleship, he is currently working on a revised edition of his 2013 book, *Coaching the Next Step*, and has recently formed a business called Coaching to the Max; and

Whereas, together with his beloved wife, Jo Ann, Reverend Dieckmann reared two fine children, Phillip and Margaret Ann, who have blessed their parents with two adoring grandchildren, Jackson and Castle, and another one is expected soon. Since his son, Phillip, played for Clemson University’s football team, he has become a die‑hard fan of the Clemson Tigers; and

Whereas, Reverend and Mrs. Dieckmann are devoted and active members of Fresh Church, a young church plant in Irmo, where he leads a weekly Bible study group for men; and

Whereas, in his retirement, he plans to continue coaching and enjoying his volunteer interests and to spend many more delightful hours with his grandchildren; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly are grateful for the years of unparalleled dedication that Bill Dieckmann has devoted to ministry with the Columbia Metro Baptist Association and wish him many years of enjoyment in his well‑earned retirement. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina, by this resolution, recognize and honor Reverend William Paul “Bill” Dieckmann, director of missions for the Columbia Metro Baptist Association, upon the occasion of his retirement after twenty‑eight years of exemplary service, and wish him continued success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Reverend William Paul “Bill” Dieckmann.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑