**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR DR. GREGORY C. “GREG” OWINGS, PRINCIPAL OF DUTCH FORK HIGH SCHOOL, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER FORTY‑FOUR YEARS AS AN EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATOR, AND TO WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives has learned that Dr. Greg Owings will begin a well‑deserved retirement on June 30, 2017, after forty‑four years as a premier educator, the last five of which have been as the distinguished and highly‑regarded principal of Dutch Fork High School; and

Whereas, Greg Owings earned a bachelor’s degree in 1973 and a master’s degree in 1976, in physical education, from the University of South Carolina. He completed further study in 1986 in educational administration, and he earned a doctorate in education from NOVA Southeastern in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in 1995; and

Whereas, to begin his career as an educator, he served as a physical education teacher at Conder Elementary School from 1973 to 1989, and he was the head coach for softball and tennis at Spring Valley High School from 1978 to 1988; and

Whereas, Dr. Owings served at Windsor Elementary School from 1989 to 1996, first as assistant principal and then as principal, after which he was the principal of Summit Parkway Middle School from 1996 to 1999; and

Whereas, he then served as the principal of Spring Valley High School from 1999 to 2012. Under his leadership, the high school was awarded Palmetto Gold status from 2000 to 2007 and again in 2011 and 2012, and was named Palmetto’s Finest in 2008 and 2009, a Red Carpet School from 2005 to 2012, America’s Best High School by Newsweek Magazine from 2004 to 2012, and Siemen’s Top 50 High Schools in the Nation in Advanced Placement in 2007 and 2008; and

Whereas, since 2012, Dr. Owings has been the principal at Dutch Fork High School during which time the school has been named a Red Carpet School from 2013 to 2016 and a Palmetto Gold Award winner from 2013 to 2015, and Newsweek named it an America’s Best High School from 2013 to 2016; and

Whereas, he has served his profession in a myriad of ways, including as a member of the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the South Carolina Association of School Administrators (SCASA). He also has served on the Palmetto’s Finest Selection Committee since 2009, and as a leadership coach for the South Carolina Principal Induction Program from 2011 to 2016; and

Whereas, among his more recent professional awards, Dr. Owings was honored as the 2013 Southern Interscholastic Press Association’s Administrator of the Year, the recipient of School District Five’s 2013 Culture Award and 2014 Outstanding Leadership Award, and SCASA’s 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award; and

Whereas, his beloved wife of forty‑two years, Pam, taught elementary school for twenty‑eight years before she retired, and together they reared two fine children, Christie Poisant and Erin Holland, and have been blessed with an adoring grandson, Peyton Holland, a baseball star already at the tender age of eight; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives deeply appreciates the years of unparalleled dedication that Greg Owings has devoted to education in the Palmetto State and wishes him many years of enjoyment in his well‑earned retirement. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina, by this resolution, recognize and honor Dr. Gregory C. “Greg” Owings, Principal of Dutch Fork High School, upon the occasion of his retirement after forty‑four years as an exceptional educator, 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 Dr. Gregory C. “Greg” Owings.

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