**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR PALMER “SATCH” KRANTZ, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF RIVERBANKS ZOO AND GARDEN IN COLUMBIA, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT, TO EXTEND DEEP APPRECIATION FOR HIS FORTY‑FOUR YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE TO THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, AND TO OFFER BEST WISHES FOR A SATISFYING AND REWARDING RETIREMENT.

Whereas, since 1973, the State of South Carolina has enjoyed the benefit of the dedication, experience, and leadership of Palmer “Satch” Krantz, president and CEO of Columbia’s Riverbanks Zoo and Garden, who on June 30, 2017, will retire after forty‑four years of outstanding public service with the zoo; and

Whereas, a native of Columbia, Satch began his tenure at Riverbanks in 1973 as supervisor of the Riverbanks Zoo’s animal hospital after graduating from Clemson University. He was promoted to executive director (now president and CEO) in 1976 at the age of twenty‑six. One of only two individuals to serve as the zoo’s executive director, he is also the longest‑serving zoo director in the nation; and

Whereas, his wisdom and direction have been instrumental in Riverbanks’ role as a powerful economic driver in the Midlands. Under his leadership, Riverbanks has evolved from a small, financially troubled zoo in its early years to one of the top zoos in the world and South Carolina’s largest gated tourist attraction, consistently welcoming more than one million visitors each year. In 2016, following completion of Destination Riverbanks, a forty‑million‑dollar expansion and the largest in zoo history, the zoo boasted its largest‑ever attendance of nearly 1.3 million guests; and

Whereas, in addition to leading the pack at Riverbanks, Satch is one of only three American zoo directors to have served as both president of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Because of his guidance, Riverbanks is continually recognized as a global leader in wildlife conservation and is an influential participant in more than seventy of the AZA’s Species Survival Programs; and

Whereas, in addition, Satch is the only zoo director to be elected twice as chair of the AZA Board of Directors, an honor that testifies to the tremendous respect his colleagues have for him. He has demonstrated great passion for improving the AZA’s animal sustainability programs and has been integral in moving those programs forward. In 2013, he was awarded the prestigious R. Marlin Perkins Award for professional excellence, the highest honor bestowed upon a zoo professional by the AZA; and

Whereas, also heavily involved in his community, Satch Krantz is a past president of the Palmetto Health Children’s Hospital Board and the Columbia Rotary Club. He also has served as president of the Clemson University Board of Visitors and the University of South Carolina University Associates. In 2012, he was awarded Clemson’s Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor the Clemson Alumni Association can bestow upon an alumnus or alumna; and

Whereas, the General Assembly is grateful for the legacy of consistent commitment and leadership Satch Krantz has bestowed on the people of South Carolina. Speaking on behalf of his many friends across the Palmetto State and around the world, the General Assembly takes great pleasure in wishing him all the best as he enters retirement, and the members trust he will find much enjoyment in the more leisurely pace of the days ahead. Now, therefore,

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

That the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, honor Palmer “Satch” Krantz, president and CEO of Riverbanks Zoo and Garden in Columbia, on the occasion of his retirement, extend deep appreciation for his forty‑four years of distinguished public service to the State of South Carolina, and offer best wishes for a satisfying and rewarding retirement.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Satch Krantz.

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