**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR JERRY L. HUGGINS UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER TWENTY YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE AND TO WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, it is altogether fitting and proper that the members of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina should pause in their deliberations to express their gratitude to Jerry L. Huggins for his significant contributions to the veterans of Dillon County during his time in the role of Dillon County Veterans Affairs Officer; and

Whereas, born in Dillon on October 27, 1947, Jerry is the son of Coy and Vallie Huggins. He attended elementary school at South Elementary and went to JV Martin Junior High. Jerry graduated from Dillon High School in 1966; and

Whereas, he enlisted in the United States Army on October 6, 1966. In March 1967, Jerry was sent to Vietnam and assigned to the 1st Signal Brigade. He was reassigned to Headquarters Company, 7th Special Forces, 1st Special Forces Group in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he served until he was honorably discharged on October 3, 1969; and

Whereas, in 1976, Jerry joined the South Carolina Army National Guard 1/263rd Armor Battalion and assumed fulltime active duty until retirement on April 30, 1996. In all, he served a combined twenty‑three years of military service, retiring as a Master Sergeant; and

Whereas, on July 1, 1997, Jerry was appointed as the Dillon County Veterans Affairs Officer. He has diligently served in this role and will continue to do so until his retirement on June 30, 2017; and

Whereas, while serving his country in Vietnam, he returned home for a thirty day leave and met the apple of his eye. Rachel Norton from Little Rock captured Jerry’s heart, and on June 12, 1969, they were married. They have spent forty‑eight blissful years together, joyfully punctuated with children and grandchildren. They have three terrific sons Mike, an IT Specialist with Caliber Technologies; Rick, supervisor of the refrigeration department at Purdue Farms; and Clint, a paramedic in Dillon. Jerry also has four beloved grandchildren, Amanda, Makayla, Brody, and Chase; and

Whereas, Jerry has received numerous awards and honors throughout his long career. Some of these include being selected as the State of South Carolina and Southeastern Region Career Counselor of the Year in 1992, receiving the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal with one Bronze Star, and being named the Dillon County Veteran of the Year in 2002, along with many others too numerous to list; and

Whereas, a dedicated Christian, Jerry is a member of the East Dillon Baptist Church, where he serves as Chairman of the Deacons, Sunday School Director, Trustee, Finance Committee Member, and Choir Member; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the years of unparalleled dedication that Jerry has devoted to the veterans of Dillon County and wish 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 South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor Jerry L. Huggins upon the occasion of his retirement after twenty years of outstanding 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 Jerry L. Huggins.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑