**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE AIKEN STANDARD NEWSPAPER FOR A CENTURY AND A HALF OF NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING IN THE AIKEN COMMUNITY AND TO CONGRATULATE THE OWNERS, PUBLISHERS, REPORTERS, AND STAFF AS THEY CONTINUE THIS NOTEWORTHY LEGACY.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to learn that the Aiken Standard has continued its one‑hundred‑fifty‑year tradition of newspaper publishing in Aiken; and

Whereas, the Aiken Press began publishing in 1867, just two years after the end of the Civil War, when the South lay in dire straits with only the misery of Reconstruction ahead. The initial subscription rate was three dollars per year, and the newspaper was owned by R. H. Machen & Son and existed for only about a year; and

Whereas, the Aiken Tribune, another precursor of the Aiken Standard, began publishing in 1871 and remained in business until 1875; and

Whereas, throughout the years, numerous papers preceded what ultimately culminated in the Aiken Standard, which is widely appreciated in the community; and

Whereas, William Henry Ravenel, a famous botanist and scientific writer, served as the first editor of the Aiken Standard; and

Whereas, although no Aiken newspaper has been continually in existence since 1867, the existence of newspaper publishing for one hundred fifty years is an achievement to celebrate, one that few cities realize; and

Whereas, to celebrate this remarkable milestone, the Aiken Standard is planning a series of special publications and events throughout 2017, along with stories about events of historical significance; and

Whereas, on June 22, 2017, the celebrations will culminate when the newspaper serves as host for the Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce’s monthly Business After Hours, with guided tours of the newspaper building; and

Whereas, newspaper companies are often the longest operating businesses in their communities, yet the Aiken Standard’s business approach is among the most advanced and modern in the State, with its commitment to digital reporting; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate values the enduring, dynamic nature of the Aiken Standard newspaper as it continues to grow and meet the needs of the community, and the members celebrate the significant benchmark of one hundred fifty years of faithful and outstanding news reporting. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and honor the Aiken Standard newspaper for a century and a half of newspaper publishing in the Aiken community and congratulate the owners, publishers, reporters, and staff as they continue this noteworthy legacy.

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