**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR PAT GIBSON‑HYE MOORE OF FLORENCE FOR HER UNTIRING LABORS IN FOUNDING THE SOUTH CAROLINA PECAN FESTIVAL AND TO CONGRATULATE HER ON THE EXTRAORDINARY SUCCESS OF THE FESTIVAL FROM THE TIME OF ITS FOUNDING TO THIS DAY.

Whereas, in 2002, Pat Gibson‑Hye Moore of Florence dreamed of showcasing her city in a way that would set it uniquely apart, something with a focus worthy of Florence’s nickname, the Magic City. She came up with the idea of a festival featuring multifaceted fun centered on a Florence specialty; and

Whereas, calling together a small group of interested parties, she conducted a discussion concerning her idea, but two important city leaders nixed the concept. However, a friend thought Pat’s idea was wonderful. With no support and without a festival name, Pat and her friend joined forces to create what is now the renowned South Carolina Pecan Festival, which today boasts an attendance of more than fifty thousand; and

Whereas, the name South Carolina Pecan Festival came about because in all the old Florence neighborhoods and homes, everyone had pecan trees in the yard. In addition, Young Pecan was at that time serving the Florence community. This business was a mainstay for people selling the pecans produced right in their backyards; and

Whereas, Pat approached several entities, including the City of Florence and Florence County, and asked them to take the Pecan Festival under their wing, but she kept getting doors slammed in her face. Finally, about six months later, the Florence Downtown Development Corporation, believing the concept was a great idea, decided the opportunity was a chance worth taking; and

Whereas, the first festival, held on the first Saturday of November in 2003 in a three‑block downtown radius, took off with a small budget of $7,500 and hosted an amazing four thousand five hundred attendees. Today, hosted by the Florence Downtown Development Corporation and the City of Florence, the festival takes place annually on the first Saturday of November. Its fifty thousand‑plus attendees come to Florence’s South Carolina Pecan Festival to enjoy eight entertainment stages, amusement rides, more than two hundred fifty vendors, Run Like a Nut, Bike Like a Nut, a Free Kids’ Zone, cook‑off, car show, antique tractor show, park and ride, and more; and

Whereas, the House, speaking for all the people of South Carolina, takes great pleasure in thanking Pat Gibson‑Hye Moore for founding a delightful festival the whole family can enjoy, and the members wish her and all who work with the event much continued success in the years to come. 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 Pat Gibson‑Hye Moore of Florence for her untiring labors in founding the South Carolina Pecan Festival and congratulate her on the extraordinary success of the festival from the time of its founding to this day.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Pat Gibson‑Hye Moore.

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