**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR AND COMMEND GRACEY CHAFIN OF GRANITEVILLE FOR HER EXEMPLARY RECORD OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE, PEER LEADERSHIP, AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND TO CONGRATULATE HER FOR EARNING THE PRESTIGIOUS 2018 PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD.

Whereas, the members of the House of Representatives are pleased to pause in their deliberations to recognize Leavelle McCampbell Middle School sixth‑grader, Gracey Chafin, for being honored with the 2018 Prudential Spirit of Community Award in recognition of her meritorious volunteer service; and

Whereas, this celebrated award, presented by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, honors young volunteers across America who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to serving their communities; and

Whereas, Gracey earned this award by giving generously of her time and energy to collect significant donations over the past five years, which she used to provide more than one hundred Radio Flyer wagons and over ten thousand toys, books, and games to encourage children being treated at a local children’s hospital; and

Whereas, when she was six years old, she donated seven inches of her hair to support a school friend who had been diagnosed with leukemia, and when she learned that a local children’s hospital was soliciting donations, she believed that she had not done enough. As a result, Gracey decided to collect money and toys for pediatric patients at Children’s Hospital of Georgia; and

Whereas, first, she sold cinnamon rolls and coffee at her neighborhood yard sale, and then she organized an annual two‑week donation drive at her school for classmates to bring in toys and other items that could brighten the days of hospitalized children; and

Whereas, by collecting money from family members, friends, businesses, and church members, Gracey has been able to purchase red Radio Flyer wagons to use in transporting both toys and young patients in the hospital; and

Whereas, every year on her birthday, she delivers toys and wagons to the hospital that she has collected or purchased through donations. She explains, “The need of the hospital is so substantial, it is an overwhelming task, but when an entire community comes together, the task is so much more manageable”; and

Whereas, as one of two recipients from South Carolina of this distinguished honor in 2018, Gracey will receive a one thousand dollar cash prize, an engraved silver medallion, and a trip to Washington, D.C., in late April, where she will join the top two honorees from each of the other states and the District of Columbia for four days of national recognition events; and

Whereas, during the trip, the award winners will tour the capital’s landmarks, meet top youth volunteers from around the world, attend a gala awards ceremony at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History, and visit their congressional representatives on Capitol Hill; and

Whereas, the members of the House of Representatives value the work ethic, dedication, and selflessness Gracey Chafin has exhibited by using her free time with the only goal of assisting others. The success of the Palmetto State, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon the dedication of people like Gracey who use their significant talents and resources to serve others. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, honor and commend Gracey Chafin of Graniteville for her exemplary record of volunteer service, peer leadership, and community spirit and congratulate her for earning the prestigious 2018 Prudential of Spirit Community Award.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Gracey Chafin.

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