**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR DR. GEORGE D. KESSLER FOR FIVE DECADES OF REMARKABLE SERVICE TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA TREE FARM COMMITTEE AND FOR HIS DEDICATION TO FORESTRY IN THE PALMETTO STATE AND ACROSS THE NATION.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to honor Dr. George Kessler for his significant service to our great State and to the nation during his career with Clemson University through his tenure on the South Carolina Tree Farm Committee, which has spanned fifty years; and

Whereas, in 1972, Dr. Kessler was appointed as the Clemson Extension Service cosponsor representative for the South Carolina Tree Farm Committee, which he served in many capacities, including as its chairperson; and

Whereas, he initiated a Master Tree Farmer program in South Carolina in 1984, which was offered every year through 1998. For those who wanted more comprehensive study, he developed Master Tree Farmer II in 1988, as a companion course; and

Whereas, in 2000, Dr. Kessler was selected as the National Extension representative to the National Tree Farm Operating Committee, and, charged with forming a national Outreach and Education Program in 2002, he worked with the National Operation Committee until 2009, at which time he was recognized for the success of the program; and

Whereas, to acknowledge and honor his lifetime of service to forestry, he was honored with the 2015 Distinguished Service Award from the Forestry Association of South Carolina, noting his outstanding contributions to forestry, forestry education, and the Tree Farm program. In 2018, he was awarded the American Tree Farm System National Leadership Award; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives appreciate the long-standing dedication that George Kessler has devoted to the forestry industry so essential to the economy of our State and a vital aspect of our state’s natural beauty. 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 Dr. George D. Kessler for five decades of remarkable service to the South Carolina Tree Farm Committee and for his dedication to forestry in the Palmetto State and across the nation.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. George D. Kessler

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