**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO SALUTE BRAD DEAN, PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE MYRTLE BEACH AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS DEPARTURE FROM THE CHAMBER, TO EXTEND DEEP APPRECIATION FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE ORGANIZATION, AND TO WISH HIM MUCH SUCCESS AND FULFILLMENT IN HIS NEW ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, for twenty years, the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce has enjoyed the benefit of the dedication, experience, and leadership of Brad Dean, who soon will leave his position as president and chief executive officer to accept new challenges as CEO of the newly established Puerto Rico Destination Marketing Organization (DMO); and

Whereas, Brad earned his bachelor’s degree in accounting from the University of Illinois in preparation for his career. After graduation, he worked for General Electric, and in 1993 he joined the Rank Organization, the new owner of the Hard Rock Cafe chain. In 1995, he was tapped to open and run the Myrtle Beach restaurant; and

Whereas, after working three years with Hard Rock Cafe, he joined the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce (MBACC) as chief financial officer. He spent more than four years under the direction of Ashby Ward, who passed away in April 2003 after leading the chamber for nearly thirty years. In October 2003, Brad Dean was named president and chief executive officer of the chamber, the Grand Strand’s primary destination marketing organization; and

Whereas, this active community supporter has volunteered with Junior Achievement, Careteam, the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, Coastal Carolina University, United Way of Horry County, and the South Carolina Tourism Alliance; and

Whereas, recently, during the South Carolina Governor’s Conference on Tourism, the South Carolina Travel and Tourism Coalition presented to Brad Dean the 2018 Fred P. Brinkman Award. This accolade recognizes individuals who have made exemplary leadership contributions to the travel and tourism industry in South Carolina throughout their professional careers. Brad was honored for making a lasting and favorable contribution not only to Myrtle Beach but also to the entire State of South Carolina and to the United States tourism industry overall; and

Whereas, the Myrtle Beach Chamber has flourished under Brad Dean’s leadership, and the honors it has received reflect his committed labors. Named Small Business Ally in 2014 and Chamber of the Year in 2015, the MBACC in 2017 received a regional Chamber of the Year award. Brad has increased the already high reputation of the Myrtle Beach Chamber through his extensive engagement with his industry’s national level, leading its efforts to increase leisure travel and serving as a strong congressional advocate. He also serves as president of the I‑73, 74, 75 Association, is on the U.S. Travel Association Board of Directors, and serves on the National Advisory Committee on Travel and Tourism Infrastructure and U.S. Travel and Tourism Advisory Board; and

Whereas, appreciative of the commitment and leadership Brad Dean has bestowed on the people of this great State, particularly those of the Myrtle Beach area, the General Assembly takes great pleasure in wishing him continued success as he enters into his new duties with the Puerto Rico DMO. He carries with him the best wishes of all his many friends across the State of South Carolina. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, salute Brad Dean, president and chief executive officer of the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce, on the occasion of his departure from the chamber, extend deep appreciation for his many years of distinguished service to the organization, and wish him much success and fulfillment in his new endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Brad Dean.

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