**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR DR. MICHAEL J. HEITZLER, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, FOR HIS FOUR DECADES OF DEDICATED, BENEFICENT, AND OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP TO THE CITIZENS OF GOOSE CREEK.

Whereas, it is altogether fitting and proper that the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives should pause in their deliberations to honor dedicated public servants like Michael J. Heitzler; and

Whereas, the son of a United States Marine, Goose Creek’s future leader was reared in many locations as a dependent in a career military family. He came to South Carolina from Hawaii in the late 1960s, after he had earned a bachelor’s degree in Asian history from the University of Hawaii; and

Whereas, although Mayor Heitzler traveled widely as a young man, he realized that Goose Creek held what he desired in a hometown when he found it. Planted in the fertile soil of the Lowcountry in his new home, he grew along with the city, taking his first professional job as a teacher at Goose Creek High School. He would later earn a master’s degree in education from The Citadel and a doctorate in education from the University of South Carolina; and

Whereas, he has served the City of Goose Creek since 1976, becoming involved in politics when he realized that the city, without the proper infrastructure for water, sewer, roads, and regulations, was growing too rapidly. For the next three decades, he and longtime City Administrator Dennis Harmon literally paved the way for the burgeoning city; and

Whereas, he has played an integral role in Goose Creek’s emergence as a thriving city for the past forty years, starting with a brief time on city council before he was elected mayor in 1978; and

Whereas, with the leadership team on city council, improvement efforts became a reality by hiring professionals to provide day‑to‑day management and customer service for the growing city. Under his strong leadership, a sense of community with a safe and healthy environment was created while improvements to basic city services emerged; and

Whereas, under his leadership, the hiker/biker trail master plan was initiated in 1986, a network of trails that would link each area of the city to allow residents to walk or bike safely throughout the city. The construction of the unique municipal center complex that houses city hall, the municipal court, and the Goose Creek Police Department created a significant community hub with its surrounding green space. In 2017, construction for the thirty‑two thousand square‑foot headquarters was completed for the city’s fire department; and

Whereas, after serving thirty‑two years as the principal of Westview Elementary School, he retired from the Berkeley County School District in 2006. He has authored five novels and sixteen historical booklets on the historical significance of Goose Creek; and

Whereas, with deep admiration, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives celebrate the public life of Michael Heitzler, a life defined by devotion and love for Goose Creek and its history, which has enriched the lives of its residents. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor Dr. Michael J. Heitzler, Mayor of the City of Goose Creek, for his four decades of dedicated, beneficent, and outstanding leadership to the citizens of Goose Creek.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Michael J. Heitzler.

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