**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL OF WALHALLA HIGH SCHOOL ON RECEIVING THE 2018 DICK AND TUNKY RILEY AWARD FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL EXCELLENCE.

Whereas, the House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the School Improvement Council of Walhalla High School has been named the recipient of the 2018 Dick and Tunky Riley Award for School Improvement Council Excellence; and

Whereas, the award was presented on Saturday, April 14, 2018, during the South Carolina School Improvement Council (SC‑SIC) Annual Meeting at the South Carolina State Museum in Columbia; and

Whereas, created in 2002, the annual Riley Award for SIC Excellence highlights the significant contributions made to public education by the more than thirteen thousand School Improvement Council members who volunteer in every public school in the Palmetto State. The award is named in honor of former South Carolina Governor and U.S. Secretary of Education Dick Riley and his late wife, Tunky, in recognition of the couple’s long‑standing commitment to quality public education; and

Whereas, SC‑SIC Board of Trustees Chair Amelia B. McKie stated that the Walhalla High SIC had done outstanding work that well deserved this statewide honor. She also praised the parents, educators, students, and community members who work collaboratively on their SICs, thereby making a vital contribution with significant, positive, and lasting impact for schools, students, their families, and communities; and

Whereas, Loreli Swanson, co‑chair of the Walhalla SIC with Jessica Duke, gave a share of the well‑earned praise to Walhalla High Principal Steve Garrett, as well as five students and four parents, who presented the school’s work at the competition. Earlier in the year, Walhalla High was among nineteen schools statewide to be named to the SC‑SIC Honor Roll for 2018‑2019 in recognition of its efforts to foster civic engagement in public education. As a result, the school vied for the Riley award, which takes exceptional dedication to secure; and

Whereas, during the past year, the Walhalla High SIC supported the integration of Tamassee‑Salem High School students and families into their first year at Walhalla High, improved communications with parents and increased opportunities for parental involvement, increased school recognition with a variety of student achievements, supported programs that increased access and resources for disadvantaged students, and collected data to help evaluate current goals and identify future goals. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate the School Improvement Council of Walhalla High School on receiving the 2018 Dick and Tunky Riley Award for School Improvement Council Excellence.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Steve Garrett and co‑chairs Loreli Swanson and Jessica Duke of the Walhalla High School SIC.

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