**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE CHESTER KING, PRINCIPAL OF CHEROKEE TRAIL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN ABBEVILLE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT, TO COMMEND HIM FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE AS AN EDUCATOR, AND TO WISH HIM MUCH HAPPINESS AND FULFILLMENT IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, it is with great pleasure that the South Carolina House of Representatives honors those individuals who give tirelessly of themselves to the welfare of this great state’s most precious resource, its children; and

Whereas, Chester King, retiring principal of Cherokee Trail Elementary School in Abbeville County School District, stands among their number as an outstanding educator, one much admired in his capacity as both administrator and role model for his students; and

Whereas, in preparation for his career, Chester King earned a bachelor’s degree in biology and natural sciences at Erskine College, followed by a master’s degree in secondary science at Clemson University. In addition, he has thirty hours above his master’s degree in educational leadership; and

Whereas, in 1977, Mr. King began his career as an educator at Donalds Elementary, where he served as a science teacher. He became principal of Due West Elementary in 1991. When Donalds Elementary and Due West Elementary consolidated in 1995 and became Cherokee Trail Elementary, Mr. King was appointed principal of the newly named school; and

Whereas, with forty‑one years of experience in the field of education, Chester King has earned the respect of all who have worked with him; and

Whereas, Mr. King, who was honored as 2009‑2010 Abbeville County School District Principal of the Year, has led his school to significant honors over the years. Among other recognitions, Cherokee Trail has been granted a Gold Award for General Performance on multiple occasions. More recently, the school was recognized at the 2015 Fall South Carolina Association of Title I Administrators Conference by the Office of State and Federal Accountability as the 2015 National Title I Distinguished School for Performance (one of the top three Title I schools in the State); and

Whereas, as a further accolade for his school, during the spring of 2016 Mr. King represented the State of South Carolina at the National Title I Conference in Houston, Texas; and

Whereas, away from the office, Mr. King is heavily involved in his community and plans to continue that involvement after retirement. Further, this gentleman farmer looks forward to spending more time on his farm baling hay and buying and selling cows. He and his wife, Sara, who is retiring as a teacher this year from another school in the Abbeville County School District, also anticipate traveling together (likely starting with a riverboat cruise on the Mississippi River) and enjoying time with their children and grandchildren more often; and

Whereas, having made his mark and set the bar of achievement high in his profession, Chester King, beloved by students, parents, faculty, and staff, will retire at the end of the 2017‑2018 school year and will be remembered with affection and gratitude for many years to come. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate Chester King, principal of Cherokee Trail Elementary School in Abbeville County School District, upon the occasion of his retirement, commend him for his many years of dedicated service as an educator, and wish him much happiness and fulfillment in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Chester King.

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