**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE CHARLENE NORTHCUTT HERRING ON HER RETIREMENT FROM PUBLIC SERVICE AFTER COMPLETION OF A THIRD TERM AS MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF RIDGEWAY, TO THANK HER FOR HER DEDICATION TO PUBLIC EDUCATION AND TO THE TOWN OF RIDGEWAY, AND TO WISH HER CONTINUED HAPPINESS IN HER FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives has learned that Charlene Northcutt Herring is beginning a well‑earned retirement from public service after decades as a distinguished educator and more recently as the highly‑regarded mayor of Ridgeway for the last twelve years; and

Whereas, born in Hartsville, she is one of three daughters of Betty Lou and Lincoln “Babe” Northcutt. She was active in Emmanuel Baptist Church and graduated from Hartsville High School; and

Whereas, in 1971, Ms. Herring earned a bachelor’s degree in secondary history from Columbia College and later completed a master’s of education and post graduate studies in curriculum and administration at the University of South Carolina; and

Whereas, commencing her career as an educator, she taught at Hillcrest High School in Sumter County, McCrorey Liston High School in Fairfield County, and Hartsville Junior High School in Darlington County, where she taught history to our friend and colleague, the Honorable Jay Lucas, Speaker of the House; and

Whereas, during the next thirty years of her career, Ms. Herring served in Richland School District Two in Columbia as a teacher, curriculum coordinator, assistant principal and then principal at Lonnie B. Nelson Elementary School, director of curriculum and instruction, and director of special projects. She retired in 2009, after serving eight years as the chief academic officer for Richland Two. During her tenure with Richland Two, among other accomplishments, she designed ten magnet programs and created a single-gender magnet program; and

Whereas, Ms. Herring’s numerous awards as an educator include the 2008‑2009 William B. Harley Administrator Award from the South Carolina Association of School Administrators and the 2006‑2007 Outstanding Administrator Award from the South Carolina Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development; and

Whereas, in 1998, she and her family moved from their home in Blythewood to restore an old house in charming Ridgeway, and eight years later she ran for mayor of Ridgeway with a platform and plan for “Revitalization, Responsibility and Relationships.” Under her leadership, the town realized streetscape improvements, restoration of old buildings, downtown business development, significant water upgrades, and creation of the Ridgeway Park, all made possible through grant awards in excess of one million dollars and through county and community partnerships; and

Whereas, Charlene Herring has been named one of the “50 Most Influential People” by *Columbia Business Monthly*, was a recipient of the Keep Fairfield Beautiful award, has been a presenter and award recipient at the Municipal Association of South Carolina annual conferences, and has served on the boards of the Mayors Association of South Carolina and Municipal Association of South Carolina; and

Whereas, married for more than forty-five years to Roger Herring, she is the mother of two daughters, Mandi Herring Bello and Courtney Herring Anderson, and the grandmother of Sophie, Hazel, and Gus Bello. She and her husband are faithful members of Aimwell Presbyterian Church. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate Charlene Northcutt Herring on her retirement from public service after completion of a third term as mayor of the Town of Ridgeway, thank her for her dedication to public education and to the Town of Ridgeway, and wish her continued happiness in her future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Charlene Northcutt Herring.

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