**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR DR. JAMES GILL “JIM” KNOX III, PRINCIPAL OF LEWISVILLE HIGH SCHOOL, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER FIFTY‑TWO YEARS OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE IN EDUCATION, AND TO WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly have learned that Dr. James Gill “Jim” Knox will begin a well‑deserved retirement on June 30, 2017, after fifty‑two years as a premier educator, the last fourteen of which have been as the distinguished and highly‑regarded principal of Lewisville High School, the longest serving principal in the school’s seventy‑two‑year history; and

Whereas, born in Chester County on August 31, 1943, Jim Knox graduated from Lewisville High School in 1961, and earned a bachelor’s degree from Erskine College in history and Bible in 1965 and a master’s degree in history from Appalachian State University in 1969; and

Whereas, he received theological education from Erskine Theological Seminary, a master’s of divinity from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, and a doctorate in ministry from Luther Rice Seminary; and

Whereas, in 1965, Dr. Knox began his career as an educator in private and public education and on the college level at Oak Ridge Military Institute. He served in school administration with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and as a school principal for the Charlotte‑Mecklenburg Schools, the Wake County Public School System, and the Chester County School District; and

Whereas, when he became the principal of Lewisville High School in 2003, the school’s graduation rate was 61.3 percent, and by 2016, it was 92 percent, with the highest graduation rate being 94.1 percent in 2010; and

Whereas, under Dr. Knox’s leadership, Lewisville High received the South Carolina Department of Education’s Palmetto Gold Award nine times and a *U.S. News and World Report* Bronze Award on five occasions and was recognized by the South Carolina Department of Education for its outstanding performance in United States History on the End of Course Exam Program; and

Whereas, among his numerous honors, he was named the 1992‑1993 Wake County PTA Council Principal of the Year, was recognized by the Charlotte‑Mecklenburg Schools for Innovative Contributions, and received an Honorary Life Membership from the Garner Educational Foundation for “making the grade” and the North Carolina Governor’s Entrepreneurial Schools Award in 1997 while he was principal of South Mecklenburg High School; and

Whereas, dedicated to his community, Dr. Knox has served on the board of trustees of Limestone College since 2015, and participated in the Chester County Historical Society and the Chester District Genealogical Society for historical preservation; and

Whereas, he was recognized in 2006 by the Chester County NAACP for his service to public education and by the Chester County Council and Citizens of Chester County for achievements and high level of accomplishments at Lewisville High School in 2013; and

Whereas, the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina values the years of unparalleled dedication that Jim Knox has devoted to education, and the members wish him many years of enjoyment as he begins his well‑earned retirement. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, recognize and honor Dr. James Gill “Jim” Knox III, Principal of Lewisville High School, upon the occasion of his retirement after fifty‑two years of exemplary service in education, and wish him continued success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. James Gill “Jim” Knox III.

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