**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE MAYOR A. DOUGLAS ECHOLS UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS MAYOR OF ROCK HILL, TO COMMEND HIM FOR HIS YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE TO ROCK HILL AND THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, AND TO WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, Mayor Echols graduated from Mars Hill College with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Physical Education in 1967, from Western Carolina University with a Master of Education Administration in 1970, and from Winthrop University with an Education Specialist Degree in Administration in 1976 and an Honorary Doctorate of Human Letters in 2012; and

Whereas, Mayor Echols taught in the public school system and was the administrator of several curriculum development projects in the Clover and Fort Mill school districts; and

Whereas, a former football player for Mars Hill, Mayor Echols coached in the public school system, at Western Carolina University, and at Northwestern High School in Rock Hill, where he was also the Director of Athletics. He was also the Associate Director of Athletics and Coliseum Manager at Winthrop University and the first Commissioner of the South Atlantic Conference. He was President of the NCAA Division II Commissioners Association and a member of the NCAA Division II Restructuring Task Force and the first NCAA Division II Management Council; and

Whereas, Mayor Echols served two terms on the Rock Hill City Council before being elected mayor in 1998 and serving for five terms. During Mayor Echols’s years of public service, the City of Rock Hill has seen tremendous growth; sound fiscal practices; long‑range, citizen-based planning efforts; the formation of numerous partnerships; and significant revitalization efforts. Mayor Echols’s leadership, vision, and support have been instrumental for Rock Hill’s facilities, including Cherry Park, Rock Hill Tennis Center, Manchester Meadows, and recent venues at the Rock Hill Outdoor Center at Riverwalk; and

Whereas, Mayor Echols has served as president of the Municipal Association of South Carolina and the Association of South Carolina Mayors, as member of the Board of Directors of the National League of Cities and National League of Cities Advisory Council, and as chair of the National League of Cities’ Leadership Training Council and the Southern Municipal Conference; and

Whereas, he was inducted into the Mars Hill College Athletic Hall of Fame, Northwestern Athletic Hall of Fame, and South Atlantic Conference Hall of Fame and was given the Award of Merit for NCAA Division II and the South Carolina Recreation and Parks Association’s Lifetime Achievement and Hall of Fame Award; and

Whereas, Mayor Echols and his wife, Sylvia, reside in Rock Hill. They have two children, Chad and Sara, and four grandchildren. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, travel, and photography; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are grateful for the enduring commitment that Mayor Echols has shown in serving the State and the people of South Carolina. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate Mayor A. Douglas Echols upon the occasion of his retirement as mayor of Rock Hill, commend him for his years of distinguished public service to Rock Hill and the State of South Carolina, and wish him continued success in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mayor A. Douglas Echols.

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