**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR SAM ROBERTSON OF GREENVILLE COUNTY FOR HIS EXTENSIVE HOURS OF VOLUNTEER LABOR IN ASSISTING THE RESIDENTS OF THE LAUREL AND HARDY LAKE COMMUNITY AFTER TORNADOES RAVAGED THIS UPSTATE AREA IN APRIL 2020.

Whereas, it is entirely appropriate to honor those individuals who give tirelessly of themselves to assist their neighbors in time of need; and

Whereas, Sam Robertson of Greenville County stands among their number as an outstanding community service volunteer, a servant‑hearted man much admired by all who know him; and

Whereas, this spring, Sam Robertson was called on once again to demonstrate his heart for helping and caring; and

Whereas, after severe tornadoes hit the Greenville‑Pickens County line community of Laurel and Hardy Lake on April 13, 2020, roads were impassable, manufactured homes were ripped from their foundations, and large vehicles were turned on their sides; and

Whereas, distressingly, trees were uprooted and tossed across the main‑entrance road. Their limbs and debris were scattered everywhere, making it difficult to locate residences or even recognize where everything was located because no landmarks survived; and

Whereas, a myriad of hair‑raising stories of survival blew into public view from this catastrophe, including reports of residents who had trees crash through their roofs and land in bed beside them; and

Whereas, in the wake of this natural disaster, there was no access to this community, and no electrical power was functioning, nor could emergency or first responders provide desperately needed emergency services or help. People were truly suffering; and

Whereas, in response, Sam Robertson donated countless hours of service at his own expense and at his own risk, using his heavy equipment and other much‑needed tools for clearing roads and cleaning up massive storm debris left by the tornadoes in the Laurel and Hardy Lake area. His work allowed emergency medical services, utility crews, and other emergency workers to get in and out of this community; and

Whereas, now a resident of Cleveland, Mr. Robertson graduated from Traveler’s Rest High School and Nashville Auto Diesel College. Over the course of his career, he has worked in North Dakota helping his uncles grow sugar beets, driven a truck and operated the grinder for Willimon’s Mulch & Large Scale Land Clearing and Grinding, and started Double R Farms (a grain and soybean farm, as well as a provider of sand, soil, and recycled timber by‑products for mulching yards). He is active in the South Carolina Farm Bureau and on the Slater‑Marietta Elementary School Improvement Council, where he does a good job of helping his children, Natalie and Lucas, with their education. Sam, who is a Baptist, also is loyal in his attendance at a men’s Bible study every Tuesday night, and he really enjoys Facebook; and

Whereas, grateful for his committed, timely service on behalf of those who endured serious loss from the recent Greenville County tornadoes, the Senate takes great pleasure in saluting Sam Robertson and in extending best wishes to him as he continues to serve his community. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and honor Sam Robertson of Greenville County for his extensive hours of volunteer labor in assisting the residents of the Laurel and Hardy Lake community after tornadoes ravaged this Upstate area in April 2020.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Sam Robertson.

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