**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE AND HONOR JUDY C. MCWATERS, DIRECTOR OF THE CHESTER COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE, ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT AFTER FORTY‑ONE YEARS OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE, AND TO WISH HER CONTINUED SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN ALL HER FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly are pleased to learn that Judy C. McWaters, director of the Chester County Veterans Affairs Office, soon will begin a well deserved retirement after devoting more than four decades to advocating on behalf of veterans and their dependents; and

Whereas, the Chester County Veterans Affairs Office purpose is to assist veterans, spouses, and dependents in determining the procedures necessary to facilitate receipt of veterans’ benefits; assist clients with obtaining prescribed medications, hunting and fishing licenses, military ID cards, replacement awards and medals, military records, and property tax exemptions; interpret state and federal laws and guidelines regarding veterans’ benefits to clients; complete applications and supporting statements, correspondence, reports, and forms; and work appeal cases for veterans and dependents; and

Whereas, Ms. McWaters, born and raised in Chester, she was educated in Chester schools before attending Winthrop College in Rock Hill. Prepared and willing for a life of service to others, she served in the United States Air Force and Air National Guard; and

Whereas, initially hired by Mr. J.B. Cranford to serve as a secretary in the Veterans Affairs Office, she was recommended to serve as the director following his retirement. Since that time, Ms. McWaters has diligently served the veterans of Chester County, as well as the veterans in surrounding counties and states; and

Whereas, in addition to her other work, Judy helped to start the South Carolina Association of County Veteran Affairs Officers (SCACVAO) in 1989. The organization acts as a state association of county veterans affairs officers committed to educating, empowering, and representing South Carolina’s veterans advocates. As a member of SCACVAO she served as its president from 1996 to 1998; and

Whereas, widely known as a wonderful friend, person, and boss, she will undoubtedly be missed by those she worked with and the veterans who she advocated for; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly recognizes that the success of the State of South Carolina, the strength of its communities, and the vitality of American society as a whole depend, in great measure, upon the dedication of individuals like Judy C. McWaters, who use their talents and time to serve and inspire others. 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, congratulate and honor Judy C. McWaters, director of the Chester County Veterans Affairs Office, on the occasion of her retirement after forty‑one years of exemplary service, and wish her continued success and happiness in all her future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Judy C. McWaters.

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