**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE FELLAS, INC., OF ROCK HILL FOR THE ORGANIZATION’S STRONG SUPPORT OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE ROCK HILL COMMUNITY AND TO THANK THE FELLAS FOR ENABLING THESE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN TO TRAVEL THE PATH TO ADULTHOOD WITH A SENSE OF PRIDE AND ACCOMPLISHMENT.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn of the fine work done by The Fellas, Inc., of Rock Hill in supporting the young people of the Rock Hill area; and

Whereas, originally founded in 1984 at Northwestern High School, The Fellas was (and is) a nonprofit agency whose purpose was socialization and positive male bonding among African‑American men. With this bond and brotherhood, members influenced each other to lead successful lives. The organization disbanded in 1993, but thirty‑two years later, the organization reformed with the goal of mentoring and tutoring to foster a commitment to students that promotes pro‑social friendships, spirituality, strong interpersonal skills, and a reassertion of a sense of hope in the future. Only through personal relationships can a sense of individual responsibility be established that will give youth the commitment to follow through on the path to adulthood with a sense of pride and accomplishment; and

Whereas, the mission of The Fellas is to educate, mentor, conduct activities in the performing arts, and serve as a resource for parents, educators, and all who seek to enrich the lives of young men and women, including middle and high school youth and low‑income first‑generation college students in the Rock Hill area. To assist the accomplishment of its mission, the organization forms strong partnerships with local school districts and churches, conducts a series of fundraising activities that financially support the expanding program, and manages an effective training program for mentors and tutors that increases their ability to be successful communicators; and

Whereas, youth participate in various programs by local residents who are trained to focus on positive reinforcement, trust‑building, and the achievement of goals by engaging youth in one‑on‑one outings and group programs in the community. Mentors, tutors, and youth agree to meet for between ten and fifteen hours each month for a full year; and

Whereas, among other projects, the members of The Fellas sponsor scholarships at each of the local high schools; and

Whereas, by carrying out their program, the members of The Fellas enhance the cultural and economic vitality of the surrounding community. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor The Fellas, Inc., of Rock Hill for the organization’s strong support of young people in the Rock Hill community and thank The Fellas for enabling these young men and women to travel the path to adulthood with a sense of pride and accomplishment.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to The Fellas, Inc.

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