**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR CYNTHIA REID WILLS, AUTHOR, BUSINESSWOMAN, MOVIE PRODUCER, AND PLAYWRIGHT, FOR HER SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND TO WELCOME HER AS SHE RETURNS TO SPARTANBURG FOR A BOOK SIGNING AND FILM VIEWING OF *CONTENT OF CHARACTER.*

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to learn that Cynthia Reid Wills will return home to the Upstate for a book signing and film viewing of her new work, *Content of Character* to be held in the Barrett Room of the Headquarters Library in Spartanburg on February 15 and 16, 2019; and

Whereas, a native of Spartanburg, Ms. Wills was born on May 28, 1954, just eleven days after the United States Supreme Court ruled that segregation in public schools was unconstitutional. She graduated from Spartanburg High School in 1972; and

Whereas, in 1985, she wrote her first book, entitled *Ritch Mann*, and adapted it into a stage play; and

Whereas, Ms.Wills’ second book, *Content of Character*, is the true story that chronicles her experiences as one of the first African Americans to integrate the all‑white Jenkins Junior High School in Spartanburg in 1966; and

Whereas, *Content of Character* was also converted into a screenplay by film director L. Courtney Thorpe Douglas and premiered at the Irving Arts Center on January 28, 2018; and

Whereas, now retired from one of her entrepreneurial pursuits, Ms. Wills was the owner and operator of Pearlee White Domestic Cleaning Service, “The Cleanup Woman,” named in honor of her mother, Pearlee. This enterprise served the Dallas Metroplex for twenty years from 1997 to 2017 and was the largest African‑American owned maid service in North Texas; and

Whereas, a movie producer through NBF Productions, Ms. Wills has written, directed, and produced stage plays since 1990, and she serves as the vice president of the Irving Black Arts Council for a theater in Irving, Texas; and; and

Whereas, she and her husband of twenty‑eight years, Lonnie Wills, founded the Wills Enterprise, as well as Unlimited Arts of Dallas, a nonprofit organization. They reside in Dallas, Texas, with their two daughters and four grandchildren, and she is a member of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship Church; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives welcomes Cynthia Reid Wills, a 1995 recipient of the Key to the City of Spartanburg, to her native home, and the members wish her much success as she promotes her book and film, *Content of Character*. 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 Cynthia Reid Wills, author, businesswoman, movie producer, and playwright, for her significant accomplishments and welcome her as she returns to Spartanburg for a book signing and film viewing of *Content of Character.*

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Cynthia Reid Wills.

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