**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR CASSIE COPE FOR HER OUTSTANDING INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING AND COVERAGE OF SOUTH CAROLINA’S STATE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS DURING HER FOUR YEARS AT *THE STATE* NEWSPAPER AND TO WISH HER MUCH SUCCESS AS SHE CONTINUES HER CAREER IN JOURNALISM WITH THE *CHARLOTTE OBSERVER*.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives were saddened when they learned that Cassie Cope would be leaving the Midlands to report for the *Charlotte Observer*; and

Whereas, Ms. Cope prepared for her career in journalism by earning a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of South Carolina (USC) in 2013; and

Whereas, she began her journalism career informally in high school, then she worked at the *Daily Gamecock* at USC and interned at several news outlets throughout college, including the Greenwood *Index‑Journal*, where she met her future husband, Matt Walsh; and

Whereas, upon graduation, Ms. Cope started at *The State* newspaper as a general assignment reporter in May 2013, mainly covering development and public safety topics; and

Whereas, she joined the newspaper’s state government and politics team a year later, and as a member of *The State*’*s* Buzz Team, she became an authority on the state’s eight billion‑dollar budget, interpreting for readers how policy decisions would affect state workers and South Carolina residents; and

Whereas, Ms. Cope’s signature work covered, from beginning to end, the deteriorating conditions of the state’s roads and the successful legislative effort to repair the state’s aging infrastructure by raising the state’s gas tax for the first time in decades; and

Whereas, writing as many as four stories a day during the five‑month legislative session, she penned many memorable editions of “The Buzz” insider column on happenings or controversies at the State House; and

Whereas, Ms. Cope’s numerous awards from the South Carolina Press Association included two first‑place honors in Government Beat Reporting within three years and one second place honor; and

Whereas, when she took a job at the *Charlotte Observer* in September 2017 to cover energy, health care, aviation, and development, the void she left was soon felt; and

Whereas, Ms. Cope’s skill in building and managing sources by talking with them about their families and other interests helped her to earn their trust, which enabled her to push and prod sources until they would give her the scoop to report; and

Whereas, she has been a strong friend and advocate for coworkers, helping them to reach a source or understand an issue; a mentor to young reporters, both at *The State* and across South Carolina; and an encouraging speaker to high school and college journalism classes or conferences. 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 Cassie Cope for her outstanding investigative reporting and coverage of South Carolina’s state government and politics during her four years at *The State* newspaper and wish her much success as she continues her career in journalism with the *Charlotte Observer*.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Cassie Cope.

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