**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND THE BIG SEVEN ASSOCIATION AND TO CONGRATULATE THE ORGANIZATION ON THIRTY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, it is with great pleasure that the South Carolina House of Representatives honors groups who freely give of their time and resources for the good of others; and

Whereas, the Big Seven Association has contributed valuable community service to the citizens of the Palmetto State, most especially those of Allendale, Bamberg, and Barnwell counties, and is thereby worthy of praise; and

Whereas, the Big Seven Association began in 1989 when seven softball coaches and team managers put down their gloves and picked up the cause of bettering the lives of those in need in Barnwell County. They started by cutting the grass on the baseball diamonds so youngsters would have a place to play. Then they began hosting cookouts every Saturday as soon as the kids got out of school; and

Whereas, their support of young people eventually grew into scholarships for high school seniors from the towns of Barnwell, Blackville, and Williston. Thus far, the Big Seven has awarded $100,000 in scholarships. Another special activity is the Big Seven’s food program for senior citizens. In all that it does, the trademark of the Big Seven Association is “community service delivered with love”; and

Whereas, in addition, showing appreciation is important to association members. That’s why they host banquets to recognize schoolteachers, community leaders, and senior citizens. To date, the group has recognized more than one hundred individuals for outstanding service; and

Whereas, to cover expenses for projects, the group holds fundraisers, including car washes and doughnut sales. When association members solicit donations in front of local grocery stores during their food drives in November, people readily hand them canned goods, cash, and even gift certificates that they can raffle off to raise more money. People trust them, knowing that anything they give the Big Seven will be used to better the community; and

Whereas, the members of the House of Representatives, cognizant of the organization’s ongoing commitment to the welfare of the citizens of this great State, are pleased to pause in their deliberations to salute the Big Seven Association. 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 commend the Big Seven Association and congratulate the organization on thirty years of dedicated service to the people of South Carolina.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Big Seven Association.

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