**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE THE AIKEN GOLF CLUB ON RECEIVING THE “SOUTH CAROLINA’S BEST‑KEPT SECRET” AWARD FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA GOLF COURSE RATINGS PANEL.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the Aiken Golf Club has been named winner of the “South Carolina’s Best‑Kept Secret” award by the South Carolina Golf Course Ratings Panel; and

Whereas, the history of the Aiken Golf Club (AGC) is proud, its pedigree regal, and its one hundred ten acres offer a trip into yesterday. Yet AGC often gets lost among private clubs or the high‑dollar courses that line the Palmetto State’s Atlantic coastline. That’s all wrong, members of the South Carolina Golf Course Ratings Panel decided. The group, composed of one hundred twenty‑five golf enthusiasts representing a diverse range of occupations, handicaps, and backgrounds, named the venerable Aiken course “South Carolina’s Best‑Kept Secret” at its spring 2019 awards dinner in North Myrtle Beach; and

Whereas, the panel’s objective is to promote excellence in the state’s golf course design and operations through competitive ranking, education, and public advocacy. Criteria used in the judging include routing, variety, strategy, equity, memorability, aesthetics, and experience. The AGC layout, completed more than one hundred years ago, fit the criteria admirably and dominated the “Best‑Kept Secret” voting; and

Whereas, history abounds at AGC, which has famed architect Donald Ross in its DNA. J.R. Inglis, a disciple of the man who created Pinehurst No. 2, completed the layout in 1915 and remained the club pro until 1939. The course opened in 1912 with eleven holes, and Inglis added the final seven. Over the years, the club has been a resort course, a municipal course, and a private club, and now it has public access. A $1 million restoration changed the AGC’s layout into a touch of yesterday with modern maintenance; and

Whereas, the House takes great pleasure in celebrating this jewel among golf courses and extends best wishes for the years ahead. 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 congratulate the Aiken Golf Club on receiving the “South Carolina’s Best‑Kept Secret” award from the South Carolina Golf Course Ratings Panel.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Aiken Golf Club.

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