**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO WELCOME TO THE PALMETTO STATE THE HONORABLE GUDRUN YNGVADOTTIR, INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT OF LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL, ON THE OCCASION OF THE 95TH ANNUAL SOUTH CAROLINA LIONS MULTIPLE DISTRICT 32 STATE CONVENTION AND TO HONOR THE LIONS CLUBS FOR THEIR MANY YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE.

Whereas, founded in 1917 by Chicago business leader Melvin Jones, Lions Clubs International (LCI) is dedicated to making the world a better place. The largest service organization in the world, LCI, with more than 1.4 million members in more than forty thousand clubs, has become the world leader in blindness prevention and works extensively in members’ local communities to help those in need. Lions Clubs activities include general community welfare projects, such as building parks, supporting hospitals and libraries, establishing youth programs, and sponsoring camps for disabled children; health projects, including aid to the blind, diabetes awareness, and drug‑abuse and violence prevention through Lions Quest; and worldwide programs that provide disaster relief, long‑term assistance to those in need, recycled eyeglasses and hearing aids for distribution in developing countries, the fostering of world peace through the International Peace Poster Contest and international youth exchange, and promotion and knowledge of the United Nations; and

Whereas, from April 12 to April 14, 2019, Palmetto State Lions will host the 95th Annual South Carolina Lions Multiple District 32 State Convention in Greenville, featuring the Honorable Gudrun Yngvadottir, international president of Lions Clubs International, as their special guest; and

Whereas, Mrs. Yngvadottir, who hails from Gardabaer, Iceland, and serves in the Gardabaejar Eik Lions Club, was elected president of Lions Clubs International at the organization’s 101st International Convention, held in Las Vegas, Nevada, June 29 through July 3, 2018. President Yngvadottir is a biomedical scientist and has worked at the University of Iceland since 1990 as vice director at the Institute of Continuing Education; and

Whereas, Gudrun Yngvadottir has held many offices within the organization over the years. She served as international director for 2010‑2012 on the Leadership Committee; 2011‑2013 on the Women’s Task Force; 2012‑2013 she was a board appointee on the District and Club Service Committee; and 2013‑2014 on Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) Governance Ad Hoc Committee. She has dedicated her service to children and youth; membership and leadership development; and health and wellness, including vision and diabetes, environmental projects, and LCIF; and

Whereas, in recognition of her spirit of excellence and dedicated service, Gudrun Yngvadottir has been granted various honors, among them the Kjarans Medal, the highest award of Icelandic Lions; the Lions Crystal, the highest award of Norwegian Lions; eleven International President’s Awards; and the Ambassador of Good Will Award, the highest Lions Clubs International award. She is also a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow; and

Whereas, Gudrun Yngvadottir finds strength for her labors in the strong support of her family: her husband, Dr. Jon Bjarni Thorsteinsson, past international director (also a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow); their son and daughter; and their six charming grandchildren; and

Whereas, cognizant of the Lions’ fine record of service for one hundred two years, as well as the distinguished record of their international leadership, the General Assembly takes great pleasure in welcoming Gudrun Yngvadottir, international president of Lions Clubs International, to South Carolina on the occasion of the 95th Annual South Carolina Lions Multiple District 32 State Convention. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, welcome to the Palmetto State the Honorable Gudrun Yngvadottir, international president of Lions Clubs International, on the occasion of the 95th Annual South Carolina Lions Multiple District 32 State Convention and honor the Lions Clubs for their many years of community service.

Be it further resolved that copies of this resolution be provided to the Honorable Gudrun Yngvadottir, international president of Lions Clubs International, and the South Carolina Lions.

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