**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO SALUTE JOHN ROBERT CARTER, MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF GRAY COURT, WHO, HAVING SERVED THE PUBLIC WITH DISTINCTION FOR FORTY‑TWO YEARS, IS WORTHY OF DEEP APPRECIATION FOR HIS DECADES OF COMMITTED SERVICE AND BEST WISHES FOR MUCH CONTINUED SUCCESS IN THE YEARS TO COME.

Whereas, for more than four decades, the Town of Gray Court has enjoyed the benefit of the dedication and experience of native son Mayor John Robert Carter, including ten years of service on town council and thirty‑two years as mayor to this charming town; and

Whereas, before his election as mayor, John Carter served on Gray Court Town Council from 1977 to 1987. In 1987, he took up his duties as mayor, in which honored position he has served his town well. He will step down from the office of mayor on April 15, 2019; and

Whereas, during his tenure as mayor, John Carter has seen numerous projects come to fruition, including Gray Court Community Park and Spring Street Park, a summer school feeding program (2013‑2014), annexation of part of Georgia Road into Gray Court (with eleven homes built and sold), Hearthstone housing development, Culbertson Back Country Settlement (Pioneer Day), and designation of Gray Court as a 2008 Preserve America Community by former First Lady Laura Bush; and

Whereas, further under Mayor Carter’s leadership, Laurens County was established as an off‑campus site of the Special Needs Disabilities Board, the municipal court of the Town of Gray Court was established in October 2018, a partnership was created with the Laurens County YMCA to establish a program at the Pleasant View School for the residents of Gray Court, and a working relationship was begun with Meals on Wheels; and

Whereas, Mayor Carter’s length of service and his accomplishments stand as a testament to his devotion to the citizens of Gray Court and the betterment and enhancement of quality of life for all in the area; and

Whereas, John Carter believes strongly in personal involvement with his community, and his convictions have led him to serve that community and beyond in several capacities, in addition to his duties as mayor. An active member of the Laurens County Chamber of Commerce for forty‑one years, he is also a member of the Black Mayors Association, Laurens County Community Foundation for the Future Scholars program, and various boards; and

Whereas, in recognition of his spirit of excellence and dedicated service, Mayor Carter has been granted various honors, among them the C.D. Beasley Award (1998) and recognition at the Appreciation for Partners in Businesses dinner from the Town of Gray Court. In addition, the Municipal Association of South Carolina recognized the mayor and councilmembers in 2018; and

Whereas, the General Assembly, appreciative of the dedication and leadership Mayor Carter has bestowed on this great State, most particularly on the people of Gray Court, takes great pleasure in wishing him all the best as he continues serving his beloved town. 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, salute John Robert Carter, mayor of the Town of Gray Court, who, having served the public with distinction for forty‑two years, is worthy of deep appreciation for his decades of committed service and best wishes for much continued success in the years to come.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mayor John Robert Carter.

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