**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE COACH RICHARD B. “DICK” WELDON OF CHAPIN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS NINETIETH BIRTHDAY AND TO WISH HIM MUCH HAPPINESS IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

Whereas, on April 29, 2019, Coach Richard B. “Dick” Weldon of Chapin will awaken to the celebration of a milestone event, his ninetieth birthday; and

Whereas, born in Latta on April 29, 1929, Dick Weldon was raised in Bennettsville and graduated in 1945 from Bennettsville High School. Following high school, he spent one year at Clemson and then joined the Marine Corps for two years. He graduated in 1952 from Presbyterian College, where he lettered in football, track, and baseball; made the All‑State baseball team for four years; and was named to the All‑Century baseball team; and

Whereas, immediately following college graduation, Dick Weldon took his first coaching job at Bamberg High School, although he had a baseball contract waiting for him with the Pirates. He coached all sports at Bamberg High School for thirteen years, with his Bamberg teams winning state championships in football, basketball, and baseball. Further, his South teams won in both football and basketball in the annual North‑South games. For the next ten years, he served as assistant coach at the University of South Carolina. Then he was head recruiter and backfield coach, as well as head baseball coach, for one year, with a 15‑7 winning record. As a coach, his overall record was 538 wins, 189 losses, and 5 ties; and

Whereas, during his coaching career, Dick Weldon received many honors and awards. During the 1950s, he was named Coach of the Year, and the Bamberg High yearbook was dedicated to him in 1956. In 1960, he was Bamberg Jaycees Man of the Year. Coach Weldon was even grand marshal of the Bamberg Christmas Parade in 1968. In addition, in 1965 he received a plaque from the Bamberg Red Raider Booster Club for his contributions to the school and community. He was the speaker at his fiftieth class reunion in 1995. That same year, he received the Key to the City of Bamberg; and

Whereas, in Chapin, he served on the Chapin United Methodist Church Finance Committee and worked with Meals on Wheels. In 2004, the North‑South football game was dedicated to Coach Weldon by the South Carolina Coaches Association and Automobile Dealers Association, and in 2010, he received the Distinguished Coach Award from the South Carolina Football Coaches Association. An inductee into the Chapin Hall of Fame, he is also a lifetime member of the USC Block C Club; and

Whereas, as a man who believes strongly in active participation in the community, Coach Weldon was a member of several civic clubs. He has served as president of the Chapin Chamber of Commerce, Sertoma Club, and Ruritan Club; and

Whereas, Dick and his lovely wife of nearly seven decades, the former Mary Deane “Deanie” Currie, are the proud parents of three sons, Dicky (now deceased), Steve, and John. The senior Weldons are also the delighted grandparents of five; and

Whereas, it is a great pleasure to honor this son of South Carolina at the celebration of his ninetieth birthday and to join with his family and friends in congratulating him on reaching this important life milestone. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate Coach Richard B. “Dick” Weldon of Chapin on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday and wish him much happiness in the days ahead.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Coach Richard B. “Dick” Weldon.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑