**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE SPARTANBURG CHAPTER OF THE LINKS, INC., FOR ITS WORK TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THOSE IN THE SPARTANBURG COMMUNITY AND TO WELCOME THEIR GUEST COMEDIANS AKINTUNDE, TONY TONE, AND NIKITA B FOR THE HEALTHY LAUGHTER COMEDY TOUR.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the Spartanburg Chapter of The Links, Inc., is sponsoring the Healthy Laughter Comedy Tour at the Chapman Cultural Arts Center in Spartanburg on Saturday, March 30, 2019; and

Whereas, South Carolina County Health Profile Indicators reports that chronic diseases and illnesses continue to afflict Spartanburg County, so The Links, Inc., has partnered with several physicians and healthcare providers to work towards building a healthier Spartanburg; and

Whereas, Healthy Laughter Spartanburg is sponsored by Denny’s, the City of Spartanburg, BMW, Marriot, The Assignment Agency, and Rejoice 96.9 in coordination with the Spartanburg Chapter of The Links, Inc.; and

Whereas, the performance encourages healthy living in order to raise health awareness in the community through a live stand‑up comedy featuring award‑winning comedian Akintunde, with other acts from comedian Tony Tone and comedian Nikita B, as well as free on‑site health screenings and a free health panel discussion; and

Whereas, Akintunde is a twenty‑five‑year comedy veteran and Dove Award recipient with scores of television appearances and is a popular screen and television writer. He has written for the *NAACP Image Awards*, *It*’*s Showtime at the Apollo*, and the BET Awards, and he has worked as a writer and producer for BET Networks. Among his other credits, he recently launched his syndicated radio segment called, *Laugh of the Day*; and

Whereas, Nikita B is a clinical nurse consultant, award‑winning comedic speaker, best‑selling author, and business and brand strategist, and she is affectionately known around the world as the “hope dealer, purpose pusher, and joy specialist”; and

Whereas, Tony Luewellyn, known as Tony Tone, has been a veteran comedian, actor, and master of impressions and real‑life humor since 1990. He served as ringmaster for the historic UniverSoul Circus for seven years, and he has appeared on HBO’s *Def Comedy Jam*, BET’s *Comic View*, Byron Allen’s *Comics Unleashed*, P Diddy’s *Bad Boys of Comedy* DVD, and HBO Special; and

Whereas, The Links, Inc., is a premier international volunteer service organization for women founded in 1946, and is committed to enriching, sustaining, and ensuring the cultural and economic survival of African Americans. The organization boasts more than twelve thousand members in two hundred seventy‑four chapters in forty‑two states, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas; and

Whereas, the Spartanburg Chapter of The Links, Inc., was established in 1975 to focus on education, cultural awareness, healthy lifestyle, and civic involvement. This local chapter seeks to implement programs that will address health issues in the community and that will increase opportunities to provide a focal point for the arts; to increase collaboration between The Link’s, Inc., and higher education and the community; to ensure that all chapter members are more aware and sensitive to the needs of people of other cultures; and to support needy children in Haiti with volunteers, clothing, and children’s vitamins; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is grateful for the dedicated volunteer work and charitable giving of the Spartanburg Chapter of The Links, Inc., and the members value the impact that the Healthy Laughter Comedy Tour will have on the greater Spartanburg community. 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 honor the Spartanburg Chapter of The Links, Inc., for its work to improve the quality of life of those in the Spartanburg community and welcome their guest comedians Akintunde, Tony Tone, and Nikita B for the Healthy Laughter Comedy Tour.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Spartanburg Chapter of The Links, Inc.

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