**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR SHERRY P. CARIENS, PRINCIPAL OF OAK GROVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN LEXINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE, UPON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT AFTER MORE THAN FORTY YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE AS AN EDUCATOR AND TO WISH HER CONTINUED SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN ALL HER FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives has learned that Sherry P. Cariens will begin a well‑deserved retirement after more than four decades as a premier educator, the last of which have been as a highly‑regarded elementary school principal; and

Whereas, in preparation for her career, Ms. Cariens earned a bachelor’s degree in education from Appalachian State University, as well as a master’s degree in education and an educational specialist degree from the University of South Carolina. She also holds elementary administration and supervision, secondary social studies and mathematics, and superintendent certifications; and

Whereas, she began her career with Lexington County School District One as a teacher at Oak Grove Elementary School in 1976, moved to Lexington Middle as assistant principal in 1981, and became principal of Lexington Intermediate in 2006; and

Whereas, with vast experience as an educator gleaned over more than three decades, Ms. Cariens was appointed principal of Oak Grove Elementary School in 2010. Under her leadership, Oak Grove was named a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence in 2012, for which she credits her staff who worked hard to achieve overall excellence, to close the achievement gap, and to exceed expectations in statewide testing consistently; and

Whereas, during her tenure, Oak Grove received the Palmetto Gold Award for four consecutive years and was named a 2015 Palmetto’s Finest Award School by the South Carolina Association of School Administrators (SCASA) for its superb instruction, outstanding leaders, and robust family and community involvement; and

Whereas, Ms. Cariens recently directed the implementation of leadership goals at Oak Grove, based upon Stephen Covey’s *7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, and the school became a Franklin Covey Leader in Me™ program Lighthouse School in 2014, involving parents in teaching students to become good leaders; and

Whereas, devoted to her profession, she is a member of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, Palmetto State Teachers Association, and SCASA; and

Whereas, a catalyst for interpreting data in the district, Ms. Cariens has served as a mentor among administrative colleagues, and her outstanding leadership has been honored with the 2014 Joseph M. Bedenbaugh Administrator of the Year Award, one of the highest honors in the Lexington County School District, and with the 2016 Elementary School Principal of the Year award from SCASA; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is grateful for the years of unparalleled dedication that Sherry Cariens has given to educating children in the Palmetto State, and the members wish her many years of enjoyment as she begins her well‑earned retirement at the end of the 2018‑2019 school year. 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 Sherry P. Cariens, principal of Oak Grove Elementary School in Lexington County School District One, upon the occasion of her retirement after more than forty years of outstanding service as an educator and wish her continued success and happiness in all her future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Sherry P. Cariens.

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