**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR SHARON ROGERS, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED WAY OF AIKEN COUNTY, FOR HER EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP AND TO CONGRATULATE HER UPON BEING NAMED THE 2019 WOMAN OF THE YEAR BY THE GREATER AIKEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that Sharon Rogers was honored as the 2019 Woman of the Year by the Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce at the Chamber’s annual awards gala at the University of South Carolina Aiken (UofSC Aiken) Convention Center on Friday, January 17, 2019; and

Whereas, the Aiken Chamber of Commerce honored the region’s business elite with a diverse audience from the Aiken County community and an expanse of elected officials and nuclear leaders, at the Chamber’s one hundred second awards gala; and

Whereas, the theme for the event was the Savannah River Site (SRS), an appropriate theme to honor the president of the United Way of Aiken County (UWAC) since the local chapter grew out of the Aiken County Community Chest started not long after construction at SRS began; and

Whereas, widely respected for her decision making and innovative leadership ideas, Ms. Rogers excelled as a human resources’ professional and for many years was an in‑house corporate attorney for the Graniteville Company; and

Whereas, she changed her career path in 2005 and has served as the executive director of the UWAC for the last twelve years; and

Whereas, UWAC partners with thirty‑five agencies that provide funds to fifty critical‑need programs in the county, serving more than two hundred thousand people. Under the tireless leadership of Ms. Rogers, UWAC consistently raises some two million dollars a year to contribute to these programs; and

Whereas, she has set a high standard in the community for efficient and informative board meetings by arranging for representatives from programs served by UWAC to provide reports to the board and by giving reports on the many projects which UWAC sponsors; and

Whereas, as a driving force for a better tomorrow for all, Ms. Rodgers was the visionary behind the Aiken Electric Cooperative Touchstone Energy’s Run United now in its ninth year. The race attracts over eight hundred runners and has raised over one hundred thirty thousand dollars for area United Way agencies; and

Whereas, with a keen eye for needs in the community, she provides innovative solutions, raises funds, and recruits volunteers to meet those needs. She is the visionary behind Project Power, an initiative to help senior citizens with needed home repairs in partnership with Aiken Electric Cooperative employees; and

Whereas, an active member of Aiken Rotary, Ms. Rogers served five years as committee chair for Rotary Readers, recruiting and organizing forty volunteers to help children who need assistance to reach the next reading level from K4 to fifth grade. She personally reads to children at East Aiken Elementary and Millbrook Elementary schools; and

Whereas, she is a member the UofSC Aiken Diversity and Inclusionary Council, through which she mentors students and encourages civic involvement, and she chairs the Council’s MLK Committee which sponsors the local MLK event; and

Whereas, a servant leader who exemplifies the Rotary motto, “Service Above Self,” Sharon Rodgers is a woman of character who is passionate about helping others. 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 Sharon Rogers, President of the United Way of Aiken County, for her exemplary leadership and congratulate her upon being named the 2019 Woman of the Year by the Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Sharon Rogers.

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