**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE AIKEN COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM FOR ADVANCING THE STUDY AND APPRECIATION OF AIKEN’S HERITAGE AND TO CONGRATULATE THE MUSEUM FOR A HALF CENTURY OF PROMOTING THE COUNTY’S HISTORY.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the Aiken County Historical Museum is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary on February 12, 2020; and

Whereas, the Friends of the Aiken County Historical Museum, founded in 1970, is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is the advancement of the study and the appreciation of local history through promotion and financial support of the operations and activities of the museum; and

Whereas, the Aiken County Historical Museum’s founders are recognized as Arthur W. Courtney, Nancy N. Courtney, and S. Perrin Toole; and

Whereas, on February 12, 1970, the Aiken County Historical Commission held a dedication ceremony for the Aiken County Historical Museum, and the museum, initially housed in the Aiken County Jail, was opened to the public in June of 1970; and

Whereas, in 1984, the museum moved into a portion of Banksia. Originally the Winter Colony home built in 1860, Banksia was purchased in 1931 by Richard F. Howe, a northern horseman and owner of the International Harvester Company. He moved the original house down the hill and built a grander and proper Aiken “cottage,” a dwelling that would consist of at least twenty‑two rooms, and he connected it to the original home. It now has thirty‑two rooms, fifteen bathrooms, and a full size ballroom; and

Whereas, among the uses this elegant home has served, Banksia, named for the Banksia rose, was the first site of the University of South Carolina Aiken before the museum occupied it; and

Whereas, in order to tell the story of the county in more detail, the Aiken County Historical Museum assumed the entirety of Banksia in 1992. Banksia is a mansion with a total of 17,500 square feet on three and a half acres, the grounds of which include a one‑room schoolhouse from the 1890s and a log cabin built in 1808; and

Whereas, serving the community through the preservation, interpretation, and promotion of the county’s history on display for the public, the Aiken County Historical Museum has served various purposes for the past fifty years in molding Aiken into the community it is today; and

Whereas, the Aiken County Historical Museum has been able to offer free admission to the public due to the combined and remarkable efforts of the citizens of Aiken County, the Aiken County Historical Commissioners, the Friends of the Aiken County Historical Museum, and the many volunteers and supporters; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives appreciates the work of the Aiken County Historical Museum to preserve and showcase the unique and distinguished history of Aiken County to the Palmetto State. 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 Aiken County Historical Museum for advancing the study and appreciation of Aiken’s heritage and congratulate the museum for a half century of promoting the county’s history.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Aiken County Historical Museum.

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