**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR MELISSA C. RAWL, PRINCIPAL OF LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL, UPON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT AFTER ALMOST FORTY‑THREE YEARS AS AN OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR, AND TO WISH HER CONTINUED SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN ALL HER FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives have learned that Melissa Rawl will begin a well‑deserved retirement after nearly forty‑three years as a premier educator, the last nine of which have been as a distinguished and highly regarded principal at Lexington High School; and

Whereas, in preparation for her life’s work, she earned a bachelor’s degree in English magna cum laude, a master’s degree in teaching, and a master’s degree in education administration, all from the University of South Carolina; and

Whereas, herself a graduate of Lexington High School, Mrs. Rawl began her professional career as an educator at Brooklyn‑Cayce High School in Lexington School District Two in 1978; and

Whereas, in 1979, she moved to Airport High School as a teacher and department chair, and she joined Gilbert High School in 1997 as a teacher and department chair; and

Whereas, in 1998, Mrs. Rawl transferred her skill and experience to Lexington County School District One to teach at Lexington High School and to serve as the coordinator of the district’s summer school; and

Whereas, three years later, she became assistant principal of Lexington High, and she has served as the school’s principal since 2011 while the school has continued to flourish; and

Whereas, dedicated to her profession, Mrs. Rawl is a member of the National Association of Secondary School Principals, South Carolina Association of School Administrators, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, South Carolina Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, and Phi Beta Kappa; and

Whereas, her numerous accolades as an educator include being named the 2018 South Carolina Athletic Administrators Association 5A Principal of the Year and the prestigious 2008 South Carolina Secondary Assistant Principal of the Year by the South Carolina Association of School Administrators; and

Whereas, together she and her husband, Otis Rawl, reared two children, Anna and Aaron, and they have been blessed with three grandchildren: Drew, Caroline, and Jackson; and

Whereas, grateful for her many years of distinguished service to educating young minds in the Midlands, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives take great pleasure in extending best wishes to Melissa Rawl as she transitions to a richly deserved retirement and the leisurely pace of the days ahead. 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 Melissa C. Rawl, principal of Lexington High School, upon the occasion of her retirement after almost forty‑three years as an outstanding 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 Melissa C. Rawl.

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