**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR RHOTEN’S COUNTRY STORE AT THE CELEBRATION OF ITS SEVENTY‑FIFTH ANNIVERSARY, TO CONGRATULATE THE STORE ON THREE‑QUARTERS OF A CENTURY OF OUTSTANDING ENTREPRENEURIAL ENDEAVORS, AND TO EXTEND BEST WISHES FOR CONTINUED SUCCESS IN THE YEARS TO COME.

Whereas, for seventy‑five years, Rhoten’s Country Store, one of the Midlands’ oldest and most respected businesses, has been a community landmark; and

Whereas, founded in 1945 and located near Twelve Mile Creek on Lexington’s East Main Street, Rhoten’s Country Store is housed in a 3,300‑square‑foot building that began as a grocery store owned by W.B. Rhoten, Sr.; and

Whereas, this locally owned butcher shop and country store is filled to the brim with items that celebrate South Carolina. Famously, it is also the oldest continuously family‑owned general store in Lexington County, its current proprietor being Wesley R. Rhoten; and

Whereas, throughout the years, Rhoten’s business has centered on the making and selling of homemade sausage. Its signature recipes originated in the 1890s in the kitchen of Wesley R. Rhoten’s grandmother, and its delectably succulent sausage is still produced with all‑natural ingredients. The store has created several varieties of sausage, including garlic, lean, Polish, hot‑spicy, sweet Italian, and onion (the people’s favorite). Of his sausages, Wesley R. Rhoten declares, “Never changed a thing. Never saw any need to”; and

Whereas, Rhoten’s Country Store continues to partner with local vendors of spices, mixes, and fabulous foods like creamy cheesecakes, as well as other specialty foods such as jams, honey, and preserves. In addition, the store exhibits for sale local arts and crafts that often find their way into unique gift baskets (custom orders always welcomed); and

Whereas, the store, which has been celebrated in various periodicals, achieved special recognition when former South Carolina Governor and United States Secretary of Education Richard Riley waved both arms and pronounced Rhoten’s sausage the best of the best in the Palmetto State; and

Whereas, appreciative of its contributions to the prosperity of the Palmetto State, the General Assembly is delighted to salute Rhoten’s Country Store on seventy‑five years of excellence in serving the citizens of South Carolina. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, honor Rhoten’s Country Store at the celebration of its seventy‑fifth anniversary, congratulate the store on three‑quarters of a century of outstanding entrepreneurial endeavors, and extend best wishes for continued success in the years to come.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Rhoten’s Country Store.

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