**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE SOUTHSIDE FIRE DEPARTMENT UPON THE OCCASION OF ITS FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY, TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR ITS DEEP HERITAGE IN UNION COUNTY, AND TO COMMEND THE DEPARTMENT’S CHIEF AND FIREFIGHTERS FOR THEIR MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to recognize Southside Fire Department as it celebrates this important milestone; and

Whereas, in 1969, the initial public forum was held to hear the public’s opinion on the organization of a fire district for the south side area of Union County. The meeting ushered in the founding of Southside Fire Department; and

Whereas, in the department’s early years, community efforts helped Southside take its first steps, with many individuals, notably Buford Brown, donating land and trucks. Throughout the department’s history, it has also relied on grants, including Assistance to Firefighters Grants and Forestry Grants, and donations from the State, Union County, and the City of Union; and

Whereas, in 1973, the department became truly established, with the construction of a two bay firehouse, the establishment of a roster, and the election of the department’s first fire chief, John Reid, enabling the department to respond to its first five fire calls in 1974; and

Whereas, in 1977, Southside joined the South Carolina Firefighter’s Association, and equipment has been added throughout the years to make the department safer, stronger, and more efficient in serving its community; and

Whereas, today, Southside Fire Department thrives under the leadership of Fire Chief Michael Lancaster, who has served in this role since 2004. Southside has been able to grow with its community, and in 2018, the department responded to one hundred calls. The department also currently has an ISO rating of 3/3x; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate greatly appreciate the dedicated service of Southside Fire Department to the community of Union and the State of South Carolina. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate Southside Fire Department upon the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary, recognize and honor the fire department for its deep heritage in Union County, and commend the department’s chief and firefighters for their many years of dedicated service to the community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Fire Chief Michael Lancaster of Southside Fire Department.

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