**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR BOOKER OWENS OF RICHLAND COUNTY FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED VOLUNTARY SERVICE TO THE COLUMBIA VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM AND FOR HIS OUTSTANDING ASSISTANCE TO THE NATION’S VETERANS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to learn that Booker Owens of Richland County has dedicated over four thousand hours of voluntary service to the Columbia VA Health Care System (Columbia VA); and

Whereas, after a career of twenty‑five years in the shipping and receiving industry, Mr. Owens volunteered to assist veterans and was assigned to the Prosthetics and Sensory Aids clinic at Columbia VA in May 2012; and

Whereas, in his nearly eight years of voluntary service at Columbia VA, Mr. Owens has spent a total of four thousand one hundred fifty‑eight volunteer hours with the Prosthetics and Sensory Aids clinic. He volunteers regularly four or five days a week, between three to four hours each day, offering professional care to veterans with compassion and concern while using his innovation and vision to do what is right for each veteran; and

Whereas, a veteran himself of the United States Army, Mr. Owens was drafted early in 1968 and was deployed to South Vietnam where he served a one‑year tour of combat duty until late 1969. He ultimately finished his military commitment with six years of active duty service; and

Whereas, an advocate of volunteering, he always encourages interested individuals to share the highly rewarding experience that volunteering at Columbia VA provides, an opportunity to give back to those who have given so much in service to the United States; and

Whereas, Mr. Owens appreciates the purposeful service he can offer to veterans who served in wars as recent as the Iraqi War and as far back as the Korean War in service to their country and who now need help that he can offer; and

Whereas, his determination and commitment to serve as a volunteer have garnered Mr. Owens several certificates of achievement from multiple government agencies, but reaching more than four thousand hours of voluntary service at Columbia VA is an elite achievement worthy of special recognition, and the members of the South Carolina Senate find it altogether fitting and proper to pause in its deliberations to salute his outstanding service to those who have served our nation. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and honor Booker Owens of Richland County for his distinguished voluntary service to the Columbia VA Health Care System and for his outstanding assistance to the nation’s veterans.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Booker Owens.

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