**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CELEBRATE THE THIRTY‑THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA POULTRY FESTIVAL, TO BE HELD MAY 9‑11, 2019, IN BATESBURG‑LEESVILLE, AND TO HONOR THOSE PLANNING AND PARTICIPATING IN THE FESTIVAL.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to learn that the South Carolina Poultry Festival will celebrate its thirty‑third year at this year’s festival in Batesburg‑Leesville from May 9 through 11, 2019; and

Whereas, employing thousands of citizens, South Carolina’s billion‑dollar poultry industry annually produces, processes, and markets vast amounts of eggs, broilers, turkeys, pigeons, quail, and spring chickens; and

Whereas, Lexington, Saluda, and Aiken County serve as a home to some of the State’s top broiler producers, including such household names as Amick Farms, Columbia Farms, and Gentry Poultry Company; and

Whereas, in 1986, Batesburg‑Leesville restaurant owner Sara Shealy hatched the idea of a poultry festival based in Lexington County to showcase the State’s largest agribusiness, and from her proposal, the Leesville Merchants Association created a festival; and

Whereas, one year later, the Ridge Poultry Festival was held, hosting approximately twenty thousand visitors. In 1989, the event became the South Carolina Poultry Festival, and in recent years, its attendance has exceeded one hundred thousand people; and

Whereas, today, the festival features four stages offering continuous entertainment, thirty food vendors, a carnival, a parade with well over one hundred ten units, more than seventy commercial vendors and one hundred twenty crafters, and the festival’s own “World’s Best Chicken Cooking Contest”; and

Whereas, guests enjoy an impressive antique car and collector show, a five‑kilometer road race, a volleyball tournament, and evening street dances; and

Whereas, a spectacular display of the American spirit concludes the festival on Saturday evening, in one of the largest pyromusical shows available; and

Whereas, the event presents the best of Southern hospitality, and the proceeds regularly support various local charities, organizations, and community causes; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate commend the planners and participants of the thirty‑third annual South Carolina Poultry Festival and appreciate the beneficial impact of the poultry industry on the economy of the Palmetto State. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, celebrate the thirty‑third anniversary of the South Carolina Poultry Festival, to be held May 9‑11, 2019, in Batesburg‑Leesville, and honor those planning and participating in the festival.

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