**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE R. MAC BURDETTE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PATRIOTS POINT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT, TO COMMEND HIM FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE, AND TO WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to recognize Mac Burdette upon the occasion of his retirement after almost thirty‑five years as a premier executive, the last nine of which he has served as the distinguished and highly regarded executive director of Patriots Point Development Authority; and

Whereas, a native of Simpsonville, Mr. Burdette is an alumnus of Clemson University, where he earned both his undergraduate and graduate degrees; and

Whereas, in the patriotic tradition of the sons of South Carolina, Mr. Burdette served with distinction in the United States Army Reserve until his retirement at the rank of Colonel in 2003, and he is a veteran of the Persian Gulf War in Southwest Asia; and

Whereas, Mr. Burdette served as the city administrator for the Town of Mount Pleasant for twenty‑five years. Under his leadership, the Mount Pleasant Town Council executed a program to keep the community safe and family friendly and to ensure that roads and services were able to keep up with demand for them. He also encouraged the creation of the Design Review Board; and

Whereas, Mr. Burdette became the executive director of Patriots Point in 2010 and since that time has been responsible for the operation and management of the Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum and the development of more than four hundred sixty acres of state‑owned property on Charleston Harbor. During his tenure, the museum has become Mount Pleasant’s top attraction and a state symbol of patriotism; and

Whereas, due to Mr. Burdette’s business acumen, the museum has seen record attendance, ticket sales, and revenue growth. While maintaining an emphasis on community inclusiveness and veteran relations, he has expanded the museum’s educational offerings to include distance learning-based history and science programs for all fifth‑grade classrooms in the State and over one million dollars of new exhibits that use the latest technology to bring history to life, with recreations of a Vietnam Support Base, the USS Laffey’s Combat Information Center, and the Engine Room of the USS Yorktown. With an eye toward the future, Mr. Burdette also successfully negotiated a ninety‑nine year lease that will govern the development of more than seventy acres of remaining land at Patriots Point, providing a long‑term funding solution for the agency and museum at no cost to the State; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate is grateful for the unparalleled dedication that Mac Burdette has devoted to Patriots Point, and the members wish him and his wife, Ann, many years of enjoyment in this well-earned retirement. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and honor R. Mac Burdette, executive director of Patriots Point Development Authority, upon the occasion of his retirement, commend him for his many years of outstanding service, and wish him continued success in all his future endeavors.

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

R. Mac Burdette.

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