**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE CAYCE FARMER’S MARKET UPON THE OCCASION OF ITS FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY AND TO COMMEND THE BUSINESS FOR ITS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to recognize the Cayce Farmer’s Market as it celebrates its fortieth year of business, beginning on Thursday, March 28, 2019; and

Whereas, the Cayce Farmer’s Market has been owned and operated by the Creech family since it was established forty years ago as Tomato City. Jacky Creech, who was then in his twenties, sold tomatoes with his father on a dirt lot on what is now 2329 Charleston Highway; and

Whereas, a family business, the Cayce Farmer’s Market has grown and flourished under the leadership of Jacky Creech, who worked with farmers and others to keep the market well‑stocked and worked to improve the market’s physical presence, and Jacky’s wife, Debbie, who gave up her job as a nurse to keep track of the market’s finances. Their son, Justin, is now actively involved in the business as its manager, stock boy, errand boy, and floor sweeper; and

Whereas, today, the Cayce Farmer’s Market still operates in its original location, and it is open seven days a week from mid‑March to January first. The market offers vegetables, fruits, jams, jellies, local honey, potted plants, hanging baskets, vegetable plants, eggs, pumpkins, poinsettias, candy, sodas, and Christmas trees, among other items. The Creech family sources the market’s produce from four to five farmers and ten to twelve growers from Miami, Florida to South Carolina to Tennessee, and the family also travels across the East Coast looking for products for the store; and

Whereas, over the years, the Cayce Farmer’s Market has faced many challenges, including competition from bigger businesses and chains, a fire in the 1990s, difficult economic climates, and even the construction of the I‑77 loop; and

Whereas, in overcoming obstacles and in its day-to-day operations, the Creech family has been able to depend on the services of Arthur Youmans, who has worked at the farmer’s market for thirty-six years, and a number of the Creech’s cousins; and

Whereas, a truly community-based business, the Cayce Farmer’s Market maintains a strong relationship with the City of Cayce and with its loyal customers. Standing the test of time, the Cayce Farmer’s Market has remained at the same location with the same mission for forty years, and it continues to give back to its community; and

Whereas, small businesses are the backbone of the State’s economy, and the service of the Cayce Farmer’s Market to the community of Cayce and the State of South Carolina are much appreciated. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate the Cayce Farmer’s Market upon the occasion of its fortieth anniversary and commend the business for its many years of service to the community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Creech family.

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