**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE KINGSTREE COMMUNICATIONS, INC. FOR ITS MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE KINGSTREE COMMUNITY.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to recognize Kingstree Communications, Inc.; and

Whereas, *The News* was established in 1972 by Chester “Barney” Martin of Hamlet, North Carolina as *Kingstree News*, ultimately replacing Kingstree’s existing weekly newspaper, *The County Record*. In May 1972, Martin rented a building in Kingstree and began offering six-month subscriptions; and

Whereas, in 1973, the newspaper was purchased by the Evening Post Publishing Company, now Evening Post Industries. Its first publisher was Jerry R. Sanders, and the first issue under this new leadership was published on July 5, 1973; and

Whereas, today, *The News* continues to be a leader in its field, featuring local news coverage and community, social, school, and church events. It takes pride in carrying on the tradition of a true hometown newspaper, and it remains dedicated to informing the public in a fair and impartial manner while helping businesses with all of their advertising needs; and

Whereas, *The News* currently thrives under the leadership of its award-winning publisher, Tami Rodgers, and award-winning editor, Michele Duke. As one of Evening Post Industry’s smallest subsidiaries, *The News* employs five full-time employees; and

Whereas, since its establishment, *The News* has accumulated over two hundred awards. In 1996, the newspaper was the first South Carolina weekly to establish a website and, in that same year, won third place in the South Carolina’s Best Newspaper Web Site contest. In 2017, *The News* was presented the Industry of the Year award from the Williamsburg HomeTown Chamber; and

Whereas, most recently, *The News* made local history when its staff hosted an eclipse event in August of 2017, drawing a crowd of over two thousand five hundred visitors from across the globe to witness the astronomical occurrence; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate greatly appreciate the service of Kingstree Communications, Inc. to the people and the State of South Carolina, and the members look forward to hearing of its further accomplishments for many years to come. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, honor and recognize Kingstree Communications, Inc. for its many years of dedicated service to the Kingstree community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Kingstree Communications, Inc.

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