**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE THE BATESBURG‑LEESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1979 AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM ON CELEBRATING THEIR FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION.

Whereas, forty years ago, the newly graduated Class of 1979 of Batesburg‑Leesville High School went out into the world to begin seeking higher education or their first full‑time jobs or both; and

Whereas, on Saturday, November 23, 2019, these same graduates came together once again at a class reunion, held at the Courtyard by Marriott in Cayce, where they shared memories of their high school days, telling stories from their lives since that time, and laughing together over old times; and

Whereas, during their high school years, the members of the Class of 1979 were prepared for a changing world by some of South Carolina’s best teachers and counselors, led by Principal Paul Stephens. Tall in stature, stern but fair, Mr. Stephens was a no‑nonsense leader and a great educator. In the spring of 1979, these young people said farewell to Batesburg‑Leesville High, where “the Saluda waters flow nearby [and] the pine tree reaches to the sky,” and soon entered starry‑eyed into the 1980s, ready to conquer the world. They developed into mature adults and trustworthy citizens; and

Whereas, in 2019, Batesburg‑Leesville High School celebrated its one hundredth anniversary. The Class of 1979 remembers that its alma mater is the home of the mighty Panthers, who won the state football championship in the fall following the Class of 1979’s graduation. The newly minted graduates were proud of the school’s accomplishment at that time, and they have remained proud of the school’s achievements since then. Today, they are elated to be part of Batesburg‑Leesville High’s history; and

Whereas, over the first one hundred years of its history, the school has been through many changes. One particularly critical change was the creation of a new high school after a devastating fire at Summerland College, which was serving as the area’s middle school. The new high school, as it were, was built from the ashes of the middle school. In 1975, the first proud freshman class entered the new school, graduating four years later as its first senior class, the Class of 1979; and

Whereas, in the intervening years since that spring 1979 graduation, many joys, life accomplishments, and sorrows have come to this group of friends and classmates. Chief among the sorrows has been the passing of some of their number. At their fortieth reunion, the members of the Class of 1979 celebrated these classmates; and

Whereas, the Senate, in recognition of four decades of achievement on the part of Batesburg‑Leesville High’s Class of 1979, takes great pleasure in saluting the class and in wishing them all the best as they continue to excel in the days ahead. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize the Batesburg‑Leesville High School Class of 1979 and congratulate them on celebrating their fortieth anniversary of high school graduation.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Batesburg‑Leesville High School Class of 1979.

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