**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE CATHY C. HUGHES UPON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT AS PUBLISHER EMERITUS, TO COMMEND HER FOR HER FIFTY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE TIMES AND DEMOCRAT, AND TO WISH HER MUCH HAPPINESS AND FULFILLMENT IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to recognize Cathy C. Hughes upon the occasion of her retirement from The Times and Democrat newspaper on May 1, 2022; and

Whereas, a native of North, Mrs. Hughes graduated from North High School in 1968 as the valedictorian, and she graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Arts in journalism; and

Whereas, Mrs. Hughes began her newspaper career at The Times and Democrat, a seven-morning-a-week daily newspaper located in Orangeburg, in 1972. She worked as assistant to the publisher, advertising director, general manager, and as publisher; and

Whereas, Mrs. Hughes worked through changes in ownership and was promoted to publisher on May 1, 1999, the fifth publisher in the newspaper’s one hundred forty-year history; and

Whereas, The Times and Democrat has been a finalist for Lee Enterprises Newspaper of the Year three times including 2016 and 2017, as well as having won multiple Lee President’s Awards for Innovation and News, and numerous SC Press Association advertising and news awards; and

Whereas, over the years, Mrs. Hughes has received a number of honors and awards, including the Order of the Silver Crescent, South Carolina’s highest civilian award for significant contributions, leadership, volunteerism and lifelong influence within a region or community, the Homegrown Champion award from the SC Department of Commerce, and an honorary national American FFA degree; and

Whereas, a civic leader, Mrs. Hughes has served with many community organizations, including president of the South Carolina Press Association, charter president of the Rotary Club of Orangeburg‑Morning, chair of the Orangeburg County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, chair of the Orangeburg‑Calhoun Technical College Foundation, and chair of the Regional Medical Center Foundation; and

Whereas, a devout Christian, Mrs. Hughes is a lifelong member of North United Methodist Church; and

Whereas, Mrs. Hughes is married to Randy P. Hughes, and together, they have two daughters and four grandchildren; and

Whereas, in her free time, Mrs. Hughes enjoys watching college sports, gardening, decorating, reading a good book, and keeping up with her Jack Russell Terrier; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate appreciate the passion and dedication that Mrs. Hughes has shown in serving the people and the State of South Carolina. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate Cathy C. Hughes upon the occasion of her retirement as Publisher Emeritus, commend her for her fifty years of dedicated service to The Times and Democrat, and wish her much happiness and fulfillment in the years ahead.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Cathy C. Hughes.

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