**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR DR. WILLIAM B. JAMES, JR., SUPERINTENDENT OF LEXINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT TWO, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER A DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF MORE THAN FORTY YEARS IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION AND TO WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, at the end of the fall semester of the 2020‑2021 school year, Dr. William B. James, Jr., will begin a well‑deserved retirement after more than forty years of service as an educator, most recently as superintendent of Lexington County School District Two (2015‑2021); and

Whereas, Dr. James states he would have dropped out of school if not for the efforts of a dedicated teacher. As a result, Dr. James has dedicated his entire career in education to helping students in South Carolina succeed. His first job in the classroom was teaching high school biology after receiving his bachelor’s degree from Wofford College. He later received his M.Ed. in natural science from the University of South Carolina, an Ed.S. in administration from Clemson University, and a Ph.D. in educational administration from the University of South Carolina. Since his first teaching job, he has served as an assistant principal, principal, educational consultant, and superintendent in two districts; and

Whereas, in his current position as Lexington Two superintendent, Dr. James executed a $225 million construction program that added three new schools and upgraded all others. He also has helped create a long‑term finance, construction, and maintenance schedule that looks decades out and highlights the path toward replacing older school facilities without the need for another bond referendum; and

Whereas, under Dr. James’ leadership, the district opened an innovation center for college and career readiness and became the first in the area to launch the Early College and Career Pathways programs, allowing students to earn an associate degree, college credit, and professional certifications while still in high school; and

Whereas, in support of his teachers and administrators, Dr. James established a plan to reduce classroom sizes and partnered with the University of South Carolina for professional development opportunities for educators; and extended assistant principal contracts; and

Whereas, Dr. James serves with a number of organizations, including the South Carolina Association of School Administrators, South Carolina Commission of Minority Affairs, Midlands Superintendent Consortium, Midlands Technical College Advisory Board, American Association of School Administrators, Habitat for Humanity, Rotary Club, and the local chamber of commerce; and

Whereas, in recognition of his dedicated service, he was recently honored with the South Carolina Association of School Administrators’ Lifetime Achievement Award; and

Whereas, grateful for the legacy of committed excellence Dr. James has bestowed on this great State, the people of South Carolina take great pleasure in wishing him well as he enters retirement. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor Dr. William B. James, Jr., superintendent of Lexington County School District Two, upon the occasion of his retirement after a distinguished career of more than forty years in the field of education and wish him continued success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. William B. James, Jr.

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