**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR LEXINGTON MEDICAL CENTER, UPON THE CELEBRATION OF ITS FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF SERVING THE MIDLANDS WITH QUALITY MEDICAL CARE, AND TO WISH CONTINUED PROSPERITY FOR THE HOSPITAL IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that Lexington Medical Center celebrated a half century of serving Lexington County’s medical needs in January 2021; and

Whereas, from its small beginning as a community hospital in 1971 to becoming the anchor of a modern medical complex today, the hospital’s mission continues to be to provide quality health services that meet the needs of the community; and

Whereas, in 1966, voters approved a referendum for the hospital, creating the biggest development project ever in Lexington County, and with the generous donation of more than twenty‑two acres of land from the Hulon family, the project was begun on the site in West Columbia; and

Whereas, originally called Lexington County Hospital, the facility boasted a four‑story building when it opened for service on January 6, 1971, with one hundred twenty‑five beds and two hundred fifty employees, only a fraction of the size of the hospital today; and

Whereas, over the years, Lexington Medical Center emerged as a leader in health care, growing steadily into a large health care organization with a wide variety of services; and

Whereas, during the 1980s and 1990s, Lexington Medical Center pioneered community medical centers within the county, created the Lexington Medical Center Foundation, began operating a skilled nursing facility and Alzheimer’s care center, and established a physician network with a variety of medical specialties; and

Whereas, a new tower and medical office buildings were added to its campus in the early 2000s, and in 2012, Lexington Medical Center began providing a full range of heart services, including open heart surgery and therapeutic cardiac catheterizations, and has become a national leader in cardiac care; and

Whereas, the only locally owned, independent hospital in the Midlands, Lexington Medical Center has received local and national awards for its outstanding patient care, earning a three‑star rating, the highest rating possible, from The Society of Thoracic Surgeons and is one of only thirty hospitals in the United States to receive a HeartCARE™ Center National Distinction of Excellence from the American College of Cardiology; and

Whereas, Lexington Medical Center completed the largest hospital expansion in South Carolina history in 2019 when it opened its new patient care tower, and today the facility has five hundred fifty‑seven beds, three community medical centers, seventy physician practices, and more than seven thousand employees; and

Whereas, the network includes an occupational health center and the largest skilled nursing facility in the Carolinas and operates one of the busiest emergency departments in the Palmetto State, annually treating nearly ninety thousand patients. Each year, the hospital also delivers approximately four thousand babies, performs more than twenty‑seven thousand surgeries, and records more than one million physician office visits; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is deeply grateful for the excellent and forward‑looking medical care that Lexington Medical Center has provided in the Midlands, and the members celebrate this remarkable milestone as the hospital moves into the third decade of the twenty‑first century. 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 Lexington Medical Center, upon the celebration of its fiftieth anniversary of serving the Midlands with quality medical care, and wish continued prosperity for the hospital in the years ahead.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Lexington Medical Center.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑