**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR STAN KEATON FOR HIS NINETEEN YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AS A MEMBER OF THE WEST CAROLINA RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, TO CONGRATULATE HIM ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RECENT RETIREMENT, AND TO WISH HIM MUCH HAPPINESS IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly has learned that Stan Keaton, after nearly two decades of fruitful and loyal service, retired from his position as a member of the West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative (WCTEL) Board of Directors on February 28, 2021; and

Whereas, Stan Keaton is the son of Archie and Mabel Keaton, lifelong residents of Abbeville County. He attended Boys High in Anderson, graduated from Clemson College with a degree in agronomy and received his master’s degree from Western Carolina University. With his education in hand and his love for all things agricultural, he began what would be a thirty‑year career in the Abbeville County School District, teaching agriculture, directing the Career Center, and completing his work in the district office as director of personnel, maintenance, and facilities; and

Whereas, throughout his career, he was very active in the FFA, in which he led student teams to state championships in parliamentary procedure, public speaking, livestock judging, and agriculture mechanics. He was Abbeville High School Teacher of the Year in 1973, and the yearbook was dedicated in his honor; and

Whereas, in his service to the community, he touched many lives, but one of his enduring contributions, beginning in 2002, was his nineteen‑year service as the Antreville area director on the West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative Board of Directors. He served as board vice president and chair of the WCTEL Board Audit Committee. In this capacity, he would not compromise on the very highest in service or products to all members and customers, and he was a leader in West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative’s transformation from “a telephone company” to “the telecommunications company.” Moreover, he was a leader not just in his own region, but nationwide. Upon his retirement, he was elected to the status of board member emeritus; and

Whereas, Mr. Keaton is a man of few words, but of him it has been said that he is fair, that he treats all equally, that his actions speak louder than his words, and that he is precise, loyal, thrifty, dependable, hard‑working, helpful, supportive, loving, and kind; and

Whereas, grateful for the legacy of consistent commitment and excellence Stan Keaton has bestowed on this great State, the General Assembly takes great pleasure in commending and thanking him for his long and faithful service. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, recognize and honor Stan Keaton for his nineteen years of distinguished service as a member of the West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative Board of Directors, congratulate him on the occasion of his recent retirement, and wish him much happiness in the days ahead.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Stan Keaton.

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