**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR WALTER WILLIAM THOMPSON, SR., DEPUTY SOLICITOR FOR THE 16TH CIRCUIT SOLICITOR’S OFFICE, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AND TO WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives have learned that Walter William “Willy” Thompson, Sr., deputy solicitor for the 16th Circuit Solicitor’s Office, began a well‑deserved retirement on April 30, 2021, after nearly twenty‑nine years of distinguished service to the citizens of the Palmetto State; and

Whereas, born in Alexandria, Virginia, Willy Thompson earned his bachelor’s degree at Bob Jones University, where he graduated cum laude in 1988. In 1992, he received his Juris Doctor at the University of South Carolina School of Law. That same year, he was hired as an assistant solicitor for the 16th Circuit Solicitor’s Office, followed by appointment to the post of assistant deputy solicitor in 1997 and promotion to deputy solicitor in 2006; and

Whereas, over a career spanning nearly three decades, Willy has served as a positive role model, an example of what a prosecutor should strive to be. He is respected as a man with an insatiable desire to be fair, one who is open‑minded and respectful with everyone, including defendants. His work ethic and diligence to move cases are beyond reproach; and

Whereas, consistently professional in the courtroom, he has always been a well‑prepared prosecutor who only seeks truth and justice for everyone. He has wrangled with countless novel legal issues over the years, tirelessly researched the issues, and expertly formed his legal argument for presentation in court; and

Whereas, this outstanding public servant has always maintained an impeccable reputation among peers, judges, law enforcement professionals, and citizens in the 16th Circuit. His relationship with law enforcement professionals is excellent, and he has consistently worked closely with agencies throughout the 16th Circuit to provide case assistance and meaningful training as needed; and

Whereas, Kevin S. Brackett, solicitor for the 16th Circuit, declares that despite all the pressures that are inherent in their profession, Willy has always maintained an even temper, never exhibiting anger or exasperation even in the worst of times. Further, he has instilled loyalty and enthusiasm in others, and his leadership has assisted in the high level of success enjoyed by the office of the 16th Circuit; and

Whereas, in recognition of his exceptional service, Willy Thompson was selected to receive the 2016 Ernest F. Hollings Award for Excellence in Prosecution, the highest honor given to a prosecutor in South Carolina; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is grateful for the legacy of professionalism and integrity Willy Thompson has bestowed on this great State and appreciates his long and enduring service to the citizens of South Carolina. Taking great pleasure in wishing him well as he enters retirement, the members trust he will find much enjoyment in the more leisurely pace of the days ahead. 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 Walter William Thompson, Sr., deputy solicitor for the 16th Circuit Solicitor’s Office, upon the occasion of his retirement 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 Walter William Thompson, Sr.

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