**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE DOLLY PATTON, DIRECTOR OF THE SALUDA SHOALS FOUNDATION FOR THE IRMO CHAPIN RECREATION COMMISSION, UPON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT AFTER FIFTEEN YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE AND TO WISH HER CONTINUED SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN ALL HER FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly have learned that Dolly Patton began a well‑deserved retirement on June 3, 2021, after fifteen years as the distinguished and highly‑regarded director for the Saluda Shoals Foundation; and

Whereas, Ms. Patton earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics at Francis Marion University in 1986, and in 2005, she became the director for the Saluda Shoals Foundation in fundraising for park, recreation, and environmental education under the Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission; and

Whereas, her role and responsibilities throughout her fifteen‑year tenure with the agency have included fundraising, public relations, donor engagement, in‑kind donations, special events, grant writing, and marketing and branding of Saluda Shoals Park; and

Whereas, in 2007, Ms. Patton directed a successful cultural arts event called “Unearth, a Celebration of Naturally Inspired Art,” which garnered a National Award through NRPA, to showcase visual, performing, and literary arts at Saluda Shoals Park so that visitors could immerse themselves in art, nature, and the creative process; and

Whereas, she secured a donation from Waste Management for the Wetland Preserve project at Saluda Shoals Park in 2009 to restore wetlands, enhance the park’s efforts to protect an ecologically diverse environment, and provide an ideal way for visitors to learn about wetlands in an innovative and educational setting; and

Whereas, in 2018, Ms. Patton directed the launch of the Universally Inclusive Playground Fundraising Campaign, and by the summer of 2019, this unique playground, called Leo’s Landing, opened to the public, creating opportunities for endless exploration and enabling children and adults of all abilities to play and socialize; and

Whereas, under her successful leadership, the Saluda Shoals Foundation has raised over five million dollars in annual and capital campaign contributions to support programs and create community awareness of Saluda Shoals Park’s exceptional outdoor recreational activities, environmental education, and cultural opportunities; and

Whereas, Ms. Patton’s love for Saluda Shoals Park, her love of cultural art experiences, and her understanding of the importance of joy and the power of play, make our community and the Midlands a place everyone can be proud to call home; and

Whereas, grateful for her many years of distinguished service to Saluda Shoals Park, the South Carolina General Assembly takes great pleasure in extending best wishes to Dolly Patton as she transitions to a richly deserved retirement and the unhurried pace of the days ahead, and the members wish her many years of enjoyment in her well‑earned retirement. 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, congratulate Dolly Patton, director of the Saluda Shoals Foundation for the Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission, upon the occasion of her retirement after fifteen years of outstanding service and wish her continued success and happiness in all her future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dolly Patton.

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