**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE WILLIAM C. “BILL” ROGERS UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PRESS ASSOCIATION, TO COMMEND HIM FOR MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE, AND TO WISH HIM MUCH HAPPINESS AND FULFILLMENT IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to learn that William C. “Bill” Rogers, executive director of the South Carolina Press Association, begins his well‑deserved retirement in July of 2021 after a distinguished career of outstanding service to the Palmetto State; and

Whereas, born in Asheville, North Carolina, Mr. Rogers earned his bachelor’s degree in journalism in 1968 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He later earned a master’s degree in journalism in 1978 from Marshall University. Following in the footsteps of his father, Bill started his journalism career in 1966. Over the years he worked for numerous journalistic organizations and for the United States Navy as a reporter, photographer, editor, and general manager. He also shared his knowledge and experience as an educator and advisor at Marshall University, the University of Alabama, the University of South Carolina’s School of Journalism, and Winthrop University. Internationally, he has been a visiting lecturer at the University of Athens in Greece and the University of Bucharest in Romania, and offered training for journalists across the globe; and

Whereas, in 1988, after an already fruitful career, Mr. Rogers found his home as the executive director of the South Carolina Press Association (SCPA). For thirty‑three years he established himself as a force which worked to elevate the newspaper industry. Simultaneously, with his many talents Bill helped to develop a reporter’s Shield Law, which was adopted in 1993; served as director of the South Carolina Newspaper Network; and served as secretary of the SCPA Foundation. He also has been involved with many journalism organizations, including the Newspaper Association Managers, Inc., Society of Professional Journalists, National Newspaper Association, News Media Alliance, and Southern Newspaper Publishers Association; and

Whereas, with a myriad of interests, Mr. Rogers was involved in the formation of the Southern College Media Advisors, served as an advisor to the Association of Black Journalists, is a founding member of the South Carolina Barbeque Association, and is a former board member of the South Carolina Chapter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society; and

Whereas, recognized among his peers for his tireless work, Mr. Rogers has been honored with multiple awards, including the Society for Professional Journalists Sunshine Award for outstanding contributions in the area of open government, the Southern Interscholastic Press Association Outstanding Service Award, and the Albert T. Scroggins, Jr., Award from the South Carolina Scholastic Press Association; and

Whereas, a force for the advancement of journalism over the past fifty‑five years, William C. “Bill” Rogers has well‑earned his reputation as a champion of open government and as a leader in an industry which demands high standards while bringing news to communities in a fair, efficient, and understandable way. The South Carolina House of Representatives takes great pleasure in wishing him all the best as he enters into retirement and hopes he enjoys 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, congratulate William C. “Bill” Rogers upon the occasion of his retirement as the executive director of the South Carolina Press Association, commend him for many years of dedicated service, and wish him much happiness and fulfillment in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to William C. “Bill” Rogers.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑