**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE AND HONOR POLICE CHIEF JEFFREY STUART “JEFF” HELMS UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE FORT MILL POLICE DEPARTMENT, TO THANK HIM FOR HIS TWENTY‑SEVEN YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE WITH THE TOWN OF FORT MILL, AND TO WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS AND FULFILLMENT IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, since August 25, 1994, the Town of Fort Mill has enjoyed the benefit of the dedication, experience, and leadership of Fort Mill Police Chief Jeffrey Stuart “Jeff” Helms, who will retire from his present post on August 6, 2021, after nearly three decades of distinguished service; and

Whereas, prior to taking up his duties as Fort Mill’s police chief, Jeff Helms served from 1983 to 1985 with the Tega Cay Police Department, where he was one of the first patrolmen hired when Tega Cay became a city. From 1985 to 1994, he served with the York County Sheriff’s Department, earning promotion to detective in 1987 and lieutenant in 1990; and

Whereas, in 1994, when Jeff Helms began his service as Fort Mill’s police chief, he was, at the age of thirty‑one, the youngest officer to hold this position in Fort Mill history. Now holding the record as the longest‑serving police chief in Fort Mill history, he will conclude his career with a total of more than thirty‑seven years in law enforcement; and

Whereas, over the years, Chief Helms has been honored with various recognitions for his exceptional service. Voted Police Officer of the Year by the *Fort Mill Times*, he also received a Local Hero Award from the Fort Mill Optimist Club; and

Whereas, Jeff Helms, having successfully managed his department through unprecedented growth, also has seen his city consistently listed in the top five of Safest Cities in South Carolina. Further, under his watch the Fort Mill Police Department was the first agency in South Carolina to submit incident reports electronically to SLED; and

Whereas, beyond the Fort Mill Police Department, Chief Helms is a founding member of the York County Multijurisdictional Drug Enforcement Unit Governing Board, as well as past chairman of that unit; and

Whereas, on the occasion of his retirement, Jeff Helms’s colleagues and friends will gather to honor him at a celebratory event to be held Friday, August 6, 2021; and

Whereas, grateful for the legacy of consistent commitment and excellence Chief Helms has bestowed on this great State, the House takes great pleasure in wishing him well as he enters retirement and trusts 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, congratulate and honor Police Chief Jeffrey Stuart “Jeff” Helms upon the occasion of his retirement from the Fort Mill Police Department, thank him for his twenty‑seven years of outstanding service with the Town of Fort Mill, and wish him continued success and fulfillment in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Fort Mill Police Chief Jeffrey Stuart “Jeff” Helms.

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