**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR DR. W. FRANKLIN EVANS, FORMER PRESIDENT OF VOORHEES COLLEGE IN DENMARK, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS DEPARTURE FROM THE COLLEGE, TO EXTEND DEEP APPRECIATION FOR HIS YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE, AND TO OFFER BEST WISHES AS HE TAKES UP NEW DUTIES AS PRESIDENT OF WEST LIBERTY UNIVERSITY IN WEST VIRGINIA.

Whereas, from 2016 to 2020, Voorhees College enjoyed the benefit of the dedication, experience, and leadership of Dr. W. Franklin Evans, former president of the college, who on January 1, 2021, joined West Liberty University in West Virginia as its new president; and

Whereas, born in Augusta, Georgia, Dr. Evans hails from a long line of educators. In 1994, he earned a doctoral degree in higher education administration from Georgia State University. Previously, he had earned a degree in journalism, middle childhood education, and curriculum and instruction, as well as administration and supervision, from Georgia State University. In addition, he earned a bachelor’s degree in entomology from the University of Georgia. He credits God’s favor upon his life in being afforded the opportunity to provide leadership, ministry, and service to changing minds and changing lives; and

Whereas, during Dr. Evans’ presidency, *U.S. News and World Report* ranked Voorhees College as a Best Public Regional College in the South in Top Colleges and Universities; and

Whereas, among his many achievements, Dr. W. Franklin Evans signed an individual Memorandum of Understanding with Savannah River Nuclear Site (SRNS) to increase career opportunities for Voorhees students. As a result, both Voorhees and Denmark Tech will have the opportunity to collaborate and align programs with existing programs and the SRNS workforce requirements. In a similar arrangement, a Memorandum of Understanding between Voorhees College and American University of Antigua College of Medicine will provide students with an opportunity to enter and diversify the physician workforce; and

Whereas, further, under Dr. Evans’ leadership, the Voorhees College women’s basketball team was the No. 8 seed in the Liston Bracket for the 2020 N.A.I.A. Division II Women’s Basketball National Championship, and the Voorhees College Historic Museum was established, which chronicles the school’s history from its founding. Dr. Evans also was instrumental in the successful nomination of Voorhees College founder Elizabeth Evelyn Wright for induction into the South Carolina Hall of Fame (2020), along with Dr. Leo Twiggs, the first African American to receive a doctorate in art education from the University of Georgia, and Darius Rucker, the Grammy Award‑winning lead singer of the band Hootie and the Blowfish; and

Whereas, Dr. Evans, as the ninth president of Voorhees College, saw the institution receive more than $30,000,000 in grants and contracts and over $10,000,000 in direct contributions, including a gift of $4,000,000, the largest single gift in the history of the institution; and

Whereas, the Senate, appreciative of the dedication and leadership Dr. Evans has bestowed on this great State, takes great pleasure in wishing him much continued success and fulfillment as he enters a new phase of his career. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and honor Dr. W. Franklin Evans, former president of Voorhees College in Denmark, on the occasion of his departure from the college, extend deep appreciation for his years of distinguished service, and offer best wishes as he takes up new duties as president of West Liberty University in West Virginia.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. W. Franklin Evans.

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