**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR AND CONGRATULATE RICHARD HAMILTON UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RECENT RETIREMENT, TO COMMEND HIM FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE WITH RICHLAND COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, AND TO WISH HIM MUCH HAPPINESS AND FULFILLMENT IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, it is with great pleasure that the South Carolina House of Representatives recognizes individuals who give tirelessly of themselves as dedicated public servants. Richard Hamilton, recently retired paramedic with Richland County Emergency Medical Services (EMS), stands among their number as one much admired for his many years of committed service to the citizens of South Carolina; and

Whereas, Richard Hamilton served in the United States Air Force from 1974 to 1978. Being honorably discharged, he immediately entered the field of law enforcement, working for the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department. He moved to Ohio in the late 1970s and continued to work through the mid‑1980s as a deputy sheriff and patrol officer for two law enforcement agencies; and

Whereas, Richard left law enforcement and began working in technical sales and engineering systems with multinational companies. He was able to help launch the first integrated engineering optical‑imaging data‑driven system. He was also part of the global‑quality operating‑systems initiative for a major motor company and served as global consultant; and

Whereas, never fully abandoning his commitment to serve his community, Richard became a certified emergency medical technician (EMT) in 2006 and went on to complete his advanced training as a paramedic shortly thereafter. He was the top graduate of his paramedic class and served as class president. Following a family decision to relocate to South Carolina in 2007, Richard continued to work as a paramedic in Kershaw and Richland counties. During his tenure with Richland County, he was part of the Emergency Operations Team (EOT), served as a motorcycle medic, and was a valued member of the community paramedic/Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) team until his retirement in 2021; and

Whereas, some of his most memorable service during his time at Richland County EMS involved long‑term disaster recovery and assistance to community members during the 2015 “Thousand‑Year Flood” and during the COVID‑19 pandemic; and

Whereas, Richard has never met a stranger and rarely misses an opportunity to make a dark day brighter for someone, whether through telling a soft‑hearted joke or riddle or by offering his undivided attention and support to someone in critical need; and

Whereas, raised in San Diego, California, Richard always has enjoyed going to the beach. As a retiree now, he travels to the beach regularly and enjoys hiking with his dogs anywhere in South Carolina, from the foothills in the Upstate to the flatlands, ponds, and rivers of the Lowcountry. He has been a certified scuba diver since 1971 and has enjoyed diving in different parts of the world; and

Whereas, the House is grateful for the legacy of commitment and excellence that this adopted son of South Carolina has bestowed on the people of this great State, most particularly those of Richland County, and 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, honor and congratulate Richard Hamilton upon the occasion of his recent retirement, commend him for his many years of dedicated service with Richland County Emergency Medical Services, 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 Richard Hamilton.

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