**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE GEORGE P. MCLEER OF FOUNTAIN INN UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT, TO COMMEND HIM FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE AS AN EDUCATOR, 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 honors those individuals who give tirelessly of themselves to the welfare of this great state’s most important legacy, its children; and

Whereas, Fountain Inn’s George P. McLeer, retiring after forty fruitful years of working with individuals with special needs, stands among their number as an outstanding public benefactor, one much admired in his role as both educator and community leader; and

Whereas, having worked with special needs students for four decades, including thirty‑two years in the South Carolina public schools, George P. McLeer is retiring at the end of the 2021‑2022 school year as director of Project SEARCH with the School District of Pickens County. There, he has helped high school students with special needs learn valuable life and job skills by placing them in various internships and jobs at Easley Baptist Hospital and throughout Pickens County, among other efforts in assisting these students to succeed after leaving school; and

Whereas, the young George began his career in recreational therapy at various hospitals in South Carolina. He then became a certified teacher and taught at Montessori School of Anderson; Anderson District Five’s McDuffie High School and Hannah‑Westside Extension Campus, where he was named Teacher of the Year during his tenure; the Skelton Career Center (School District of Pickens County), where he developed the STEEP Program; Mauldin Middle School (Greenville County Schools); Pickens High School; and, finally, director of Project SEARCH for the School District of Pickens County. During his time heading Project SEARCH, it was recognized as one of the top eight programs in the State; and

Whereas, this passionate runner also served as coach for numerous high school teams, among them track and field for McDuffie High School, as well as cross country for both Westside High School and Liberty High School; and

Whereas, growing up as the youngest of seven children in Atlanta, Georgia, George McLeer graduated from Clemson University, where he met his wife, Elizabeth, who also retired as a special education teacher. They are the proud parents of three children, George Patrick “G.P.” McLeer, Jr., Mairin Anne McLeer, and Michael A. McLeer. The senior McLeers are the delighted grandparents of Albee James McLeer, daughter of G.P. and Taylor McLeer; and

Whereas, over the course of his teaching career, George McLeer impacted the lives of hundreds of children with special needs, giving them the tools they need to thrive in the workplace. Because of his committed labors, countless individuals who otherwise would have faced challenges and adversities in securing employment after high school now have stable employment, a higher quality of life, and a bright future. His selfless advocacy on behalf of his students, special education professionals, and all educators, has made our State stronger. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate George P. McLeer of Fountain Inn upon the occasion of his retirement, commend him for his many years of dedicated service as an educator, 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 George P. McLeer.

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