**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE AND COMMEND THE HONORABLE MERITA A. “RITA” ALLISON ON HER MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OVER THE PAST THIRTY YEARS AND TO WISH HER CONTENTMENT AND SUCCESS IN ALL HER FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, for the span of three decades, the Honorable Merita A. “Rita” Allison with faithful integrity has represented the citizens of District 36 (Greenville and Spartanburg counties) in the House of Representatives of this great State; and

Whereas, born in Spartanburg County, Rita Allison graduated from James F. Byrnes High School and studied at the John Robert Powers School of Fashion Merchandising; and

Whereas, during her time of service in the House of Representatives, Rita Allison has proven her worth as a member of various committees within that body, including the Operations and Management Committee (vice chair), Joint Legislative Committee on Children and Families, State Tax Ad Hoc Study Committee, and House Ways and Means Committee. Most recently, she has served as chair of the Education and Public Works Committee. In addition, she served as founder and chair of the GOP Women’s Caucus, chair of the General Assembly Women’s Caucus, and assistant majority leader for the GOP. Representative Allison was also an education advisor and legislative advisor for Governor Mark Sanford in between her terms of service with the House. Prior to taking up her duties in the House of Representatives, she served on the school board for Spartanburg County District Five; and

Whereas, Rita Allison believes strongly in personal involvement with her community, and her convictions have led her to serve that community, as well as the broader community of South Carolina, in several capacities. Past and present service includes board membership with the R.D. Anderson Vocational School and Miss South Carolina Scholarship Program, as well as membership with the Middle Tyger Chamber of Commerce, Lyman First Citizens Bank Advisory Board, PTA (president and lifetime member), and Middle Tyger Civitans. As a woman of faith, she is a member of Wellford Baptist Church; and

Whereas, in recognition of her spirit of excellence and dedicated service to the people of South Carolina, Rita Allison has received numerous awards. Over the years, she has been named Piedmont Girl Scouts Woman of Achievement, Victims Advocate Legislator of the Year, SCSBA Legislator of the Year, NFB Legislator of the Year, and Middle Tyger Chamber Citizen of the Year. Further, she has been inducted into the Miss South Carolina Hall of Fame; and

Whereas, as Rita Allison leaves the House of Representatives, her colleagues in the House wish to thank her for her strong dedication to the people of District 36 and extend sincere good wishes for all the best life has to offer in the coming years. 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 commend the Honorable Merita A. “Rita” Allison on her meritorious service in the South Carolina House of Representatives over the past thirty years and wish her contentment and success in all her future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to our distinguished colleague, the Honorable Merita A. “Rita” Allison.

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