**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CELEBRATE THE OCCASION OF THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF AWENDAW AND TO CONGRATULATE AND COMMEND MAYOR MIRIAM C. GREEN AND THE CITIZENS OF AWENDAW FOR THREE DECADES OF SHOWCASING BOTH THE BEAUTY AND PROGRESS OF THIS GREAT SOUTH CAROLINA TOWN.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to join the Town of Awendaw in celebrating the milestone of its thirtieth anniversary; and

Whereas, located in Charleston County and incorporated on August 18, 1992, Awendaw was settled in 1696 under the name Wappetaw by settlers from Salem, Massachusetts, who left New England after the Salem Witch Trials. It is a jewel nestled along the eastern edge of the Francis Marion National Forest and the western edge of the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge. This unique setting, about eighteen miles north of Charleston, offers abundant outdoor experiences for its residents and visitors; and

Whereas, the town was named by the Seewee (or Sewee) Native American tribe and is home to an oyster‑shell mound created by the Sewees. This mound, still mostly intact, is the northernmost shell ring in a group that stretches south to the tip of Florida. The Sewee shell mound is a pre‑Columbian Native American historical site accessed by a one‑mile interpretative hiking trail in the Francis Marion National Forest. Although weathered by time and, in 1989, Hurricane Hugo, the shell rings are easily visible. They are believed to be an ancient trash pile of oyster shells discarded by early Native Americans many years ago, although some theories suggest the shell rings had ceremonial purposes. Adjacent to a preserved freshwater marsh, the site may be examined from a 120‑foot‑long National Forest Service boardwalk, which also features five interpretive stops. Directions and details are available at the nearby Sewee Visitor and Environmental Education Center in Awendaw; and

Whereas, aside from its rich history, the town has much to offer: the Sewee Visitor and Environmental Education Center, Center for Birds of Prey/Avian Conservation, and Bull Island Ferry. In addition, Awendaw hosts several events celebrating the environment: the town’s annual Blue Crab Festival, SEWEE Association’s annual oyster roast, the annual Bulls Bay Nature Festival, and Awendaw Green (a weekly outdoor music event at Sewee Outpost); and

Whereas, today, this thriving community of about 1,744 residents is the most sought‑after area on the northern end of Charleston County. In the thirty years since its incorporation, it has played a major role in the infrastructural and economic development of the surrounding area. Recently, the town established a public water system that provides safe, clean water to its residents. Further, several housing developments are coming to the area, and there is a proposal to build a new middle/high school over the next five years for the education of Awendaw’s children; and

Whereas, during this, the town’s thirtieth anniversary year, the House takes great pleasure in extending best wishes to the people of Awendaw as they anticipate a bright future enhanced by the rich heritage of the past. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, celebrate the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Town of Awendaw and congratulate and commend Mayor Miriam C. Green and the citizens of Awendaw for three decades of showcasing both the beauty and progress of this great South Carolina town.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mayor Miriam C. Green on behalf of the Town of Awendaw.

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