**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE JEAN PHILLIPS FOR HER SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND GROWTH OF THE WALHALLA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER.

Whereas, a native of Walhalla, Jean Phillips was born on December 19, 1928 to parents Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Underwood. She is a direct descendant of Carsten Windelken, one of the original settlers of Walhalla; and

Whereas, an incredible visionary, Jean Phillips had a leading role in the restoration of the former Walhalla High School auditorium, which is now the Walhalla Performing Arts Center. Alongside the late Maxie Lee Wright Duke, she was part of the leadership in setting up the original charter for the Walhalla Auditorium Restoration Committee in 1991 to preserve and save the historic building. The committee raised funds to open the restored building as an arts center, with its first show in 2003; and

Whereas, due to Jean’s many efforts, the Walhalla Performing Arts Center is now a vibrant part of Walhalla and Oconee County and draws a wide variety of entertainment to the county each year. It is an important part of the quality of life for the whole community and region, a treasure that will continue to bring performances to Walhalla for years to come, and an enduring legacy. Jean’s contributions over the years have been instrumental to the center’s success today; and

Whereas, Jean had a distinguished career as a teacher for thirty-two years, retiring in 1992. During the course of her career, she served in a number of capacities both inside and outside of the classroom, including as an appointed member of the Teacher Education Council advising the State Board of Education, appointed field coordinator to implement Act 187 of 1982, school Teacher of the Year several times, Oconee County Teacher of the Year, and South Carolina Educator Improvement Task Force member; and

Whereas, over the years, Jean has received a number of honors and awards, including the Oconee County Achievement Award, which she has received seven times; a nomination to attend a workshop in Colorado on using the computer as an instructional tool in algebra; the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics Education; and recognition by Clemson University’s Education Department as an outstanding graduate; and

Whereas, beloved by her students, Jean had five yearbooks dedicated to her. With a love for travel, she took many students to Washington, DC and Europe over the course of her career; and

Whereas, Jean was married to her husband Robert Grant Phillips for sixty-five years until his death in 2010. Together, they had three children, Vicki Jean Phillips, Robert Grant Phillips, and Larry Richard Phillips; six grandchildren, Rob Calhoun, Meghan Henley, Lauren Hill, Tyler Phillips, Natalie Woodall, and Caitlin Chewning; and five great-grandchildren, Collin Henley, Aneliese Henley, Hudson Hill, Parker Hill, and Willow Woodall; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate greatly appreciate the dedication and commitment that Jean Phillips has shown in serving the people and the State of South Carolina. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize Jean Phillips for her significant contributions to the establishment and growth of the Walhalla Performing Arts Center.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Jean Phillips.

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