**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR LARRY PENLEY, CLEMSON UNIVERSITY MEN’S GOLF COACH, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER THIRTY‑EIGHT YEARS OF AWARD‑WINNING COACHING, AND TO WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate is proud to recognize the career achievements of Coach Larry Penley after thirty‑eight years as the distinguished and highly‑regarded men’s golf coach at Clemson University; and

Whereas, from 1977 to 1981, Larry Penley was a student athlete at Clemson University where he excelled as an All‑ACC golfer. Just two years later he was named the head coach of the Tigers’ golf team, the longest tenure by a Clemson head coach in any sport; and

Whereas, the highlight of Coach Penley’s career was Clemson’s 2003 National Championship, which at the time was just the fourth national team championship in Clemson athletics history. With a 183‑8‑3 record that year, the Tigers were one of the most dominant teams in college golf history, winning six times, including the ACC, NCAA Regional, and NCAA Championship tournaments, the first team in college golf history to win all three of those postseason tournaments in the same year; and

Whereas, under Coach Penley’s leadership the Clemson Golf program has finished in the Top 20 twenty-five times, which is more than any coach in any sport in school history. He led the team to thirteen Top 10 finishes, which is second in school history for any coach; and

Whereas, in a Clemson athletics record for team appearances by a head coach, he has taken Clemson to the NCAA Tournament all thirty‑seven seasons in which a tournament was held; and

Whereas, after the team won the 2003 national championship, Coach Penley was named National Coach of the Year by every service, and he was inducted into the Golf Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2004 at the age of forty‑four, one of the youngest inductees in history. He was inducted into the South Carolina Golf Hall of Fame in 2009; and

Whereas, in his final season he was named the ACC Coach of the Year for the ninth time. He is just the second coach in any league sport to be named ACC Coach of the Year in five different decades. He has been named the NCAA District Coach of the Year seven times; and

Whereas, during his career, Coach Penley had eighty-three career victories, most in ACC history, including ten ACC Tournaments and seven NCAA Regionals, and the latter wins are more than any other coach in NCAA Division I history; and

Whereas, between 1982 and 2004 the team made the NCAA National Tournament every year, the third‑longest winning streak in college golf history. During his career, he has taken Clemson to the national championship twenty‑nine times; and

Whereas, fifteen of Coach Penley’s former players have had status on the PGA Tour, and have combined to win fifteen PGA Tour events. Thirty‑one of his players have been honored as All‑Americans and two have won the individual NCAA championship, including Turk Pettit in Penley’s final season; and

Whereas, Coach Penley also has inspired academic excellence as fifteen of his players have been named a Golf Coaches Association Academic Scholar. His program has been recognized three times for its top ten percent ranking in terms of APR scores; and

Whereas, grateful for his many years of unparalleled dedication to the Clemson University golf program, the South Carolina House of Representatives takes great pleasure in extending best wishes to Larry Penley as he transitions to a richly deserved retirement and the leisurely pace of the days ahead. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate Larry Penley, Clemson University men’s golf coach, upon the occasion of his retirement after thirty‑eight years of award‑winning coaching, and wish him continued success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Larry Penley.

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