**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR AND COMMEND VIRGINIA LEAMAN CROCKER FOR HER DISTINGUISHED AND DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO WISH HER CONTINUED SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN ALL HER FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, Virginia “Ginger” Crocker is a native of Clinton, South Carolina; and

Whereas, a graduate of Columbia College with a degree in Speech and Drama and a minor in Political Science; and

Whereas, upon graduation from Columbia College, she joined the staff of Governor John C. West; and

Whereas, she then served as a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives representing Laurens County from 1978 through 1984; and

Whereas, while serving in the House, she was Assistance Director of Admissions and Director of Special Projects at Presbyterian College in Clinton; and

Whereas, in the House, she served on the Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee, the State House Committee, and as House Majority Whip. She was awarded the Legislator of the Year Award from both the South Carolina Education Association and the South Carolina School Boards Association for her contributions to the Education Improvement Act of 1984; and

Whereas, Governor Richard W. Riley appointed her to the Workers Compensation Commission in 1984 where she served until 1992. While on the commission, she served as Vice Chair and was instrumental in reforming the policies and procedures of the commission and writing the current rules and regulations; and

Whereas, in 1996, she was named Executive Director of the House Democratic Caucus where she worked with then Caucus Leader, Representative Jim Hodges. In 1998, she joined Representative Hodges’ gubernatorial campaign staff. In January 1999, she served Governor Hodges in the position of Director of Intergovernmental and Community Relations, where she served throughout his term; and

Whereas, she is a former member of the Board of Visitors of Presbyterian College and Columbia College. Additionally, she served as the Governor’s representative on the Board of the North Carolina Healthcare Information and Communication Alliance, Inc. In 1999, she received the South Carolina Rural Health Association’s Presidential Award of Merit for her work in improving healthcare in rural South Carolina; and

Whereas, in 2002, Governor Jim Hodges appointed her to the State Commission on National and Community Service and the State Museum Board of Trustees. She is a former board member of the South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities Foundation where she served as Public Policy Chair. Additionally, Richland County Council appointed her to serve as a Trustee of Richland Memorial Hospital where she currently serves as Vice Chair of the board; and

Whereas, in 2004, she worked with the Democratic Party of South Carolina coordinating the Democratic Presidential Preference Primary and then served on the campaign staff of Inez Tenenbaum for the United States Senate. In 2006, she coordinated disaster relief for the Gulf Coast Evacuees of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the State of South Carolina through the South Carolina Emergency Management Division; and

Whereas, in 2007, she returned to the South Carolina Workers’ Compensation Commission as the Judicial Director in which position she remained until May 2014. In this role, she is credited with reducing the time in which claimants waited for hearings to be set from nine months to less than thirty days; and

Whereas, she is an honorary alumna of Presbyterian College and is a tremendous supporter of the Blue Hose and their athletics programs, traveling to games around the southeast, including tennis matches in which her nephew, Nathan Crocker, plays; and

Whereas, it is fitting for the members of the Senate, on behalf of the citizens of South Carolina, to pause in their deliberations to thank and honor this truly outstanding woman for her exemplary career of service to her native State. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, honor and commend Virginia Leaman Crocker for her distinguished and dedicated service to the State of South Carolina and wish her continued success and happiness in all her future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Virginia Leaman Crocker.

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