**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR FRIENDS OF PICKENS COUNTY GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM FOR ITS OUTSTANDING WORK OF NEARLY TWELVE YEARS IN PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN AND IN PROVIDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE PICKENS COUNTY GUARDIAN AD LITEM OFFICE AND ITS COURT‑APPOINTED GUARDIAN AD LITEM VOLUNTEERS.

Whereas, it is with great pleasure that the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives honor individuals and organizations that freely give of their time and resources for the good of others, especially those who need it most; and

Whereas, since May 2002, Friends of Pickens County Guardian ad Litem Program has proven itself an organization that truly cares about the county’s abused and neglected children, as well as about the Pickens County Guardian ad Litem (GAL) office and its court‑appointed GAL volunteers. In lending its indispensable financial support, Friends of Pickens County Guardian ad Litem Program also has contributed untold hours of valuable volunteer service to the citizens of South Carolina and is thereby worthy of praise; and

Whereas, in pursuing its goals, the 501(c)(3) organization sponsors various activities that assist hundreds of abused and neglected children and supports the GALs who work with the children. Among these events are the annual Spring Fling for Pickens County children in foster care, attended by nearly one hundred fifty children in 2013, the annual Back‑to‑School Heart & Sole Shopping at Belk and Rack Room Shoes, which helped more than one hundred twenty children have new clothes to wear on the first day of school in August of 2013, the annual Appreciation of Pickens County Volunteer GALs that, in 2013, honored more than one hundred volunteers for their service, and Clothes Closet at the Pickens County Department of Social Services office, which stocks new clothes for children entering foster care; and

Whereas, in addition to providing financial assistance to the Pickens County GAL office for expenses, including advertisements for GAL volunteer training classes, GAL mileage reimbursement, and office supplies, the Friends provides financial support for fund requests such as medical expenses not covered by DSS/Medicaid, summer camp, and many other items needed or desired by the children; and

Whereas, the Friends has raised nearly a quarter million dollars in support of its mission since 2007; and

Whereas, grateful for the fine work accomplished by Friends of Pickens County Guardian ad Litem Program, the South Carolina House of Representatives is proud to add its collective voice to the many warm expressions of praise so well deserved by this dedicated organization. The members wish the Friends much continued success as it carries forward its mission to the citizens of Pickens County. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor Friends of Pickens County Guardian ad Litem Program for its outstanding work of nearly twelve years in providing assistance to abused and neglected children and in providing financial support to the Pickens County GAL office and its court‑appointed GAL volunteers.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Friends of Pickens County Guardian ad Litem Program.

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