**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE OUTSTANDING WORK OF THE CHARLESTON YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL FOR ITS BEAUX AFFAIR “RITES‑OF‑PASSAGE” PROGRAM AND TO CONGRATULATE THE ORGANIZERS, ELDERS, MENTORS, YOUNG MEN, AND FAMILIES INVOLVED IN THIS SIGNIFICANT PROGRAM AS THEY CELEBRATE TWENTY‑FIVE YEARS IN THE CHARLESTON AREA.

Whereas, in 1989, the Charleston Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., introduced and sponsored the first Charleston Beautillion for young men in their junior and senior years of high school as a mentor and leadership development program; and

Whereas, the Beautillion was intended as a one‑year project but was so well received by the community that students and parents alike sought to maintain the Beautillion or a similar program in the Tri‑County area; and

Whereas, in 1990, Gail Blair, Dr. Delma Woods, and David C. Floyd formed a separate organization, the Council to Foster Male Leadership, Inc., to provide opportunities for and recognize the accomplishments of African‑American boys through the Beaux Affair “Rites-of-Passage” program. The organization changed its name in 1995 to the Charleston Youth Leadership Council; and

Whereas, the Beaux Affair “Rites‑of‑Passage”program is dedicated to developing and enhancing attributes of character, leadership, scholarship, and awareness in adolescent males as they transition to adulthood. In 1998, the program was transferred to the 100 Black Men of Charleston, Inc., but reverted in 2002 to operate as a stand‑alone program under the Charleston Youth Leadership Council; and

Whereas, one of the Beaux Affair “Rites‑of‑Passage” program’s goals is to promote and provide opportunities for young men from disadvantaged and nondisadvantaged circumstances to interact in a variety of activities during a nine‑month mentor and leadership development program; and.

Whereas, three‑hour workshops held every other Sunday address a variety of topics, such as preparing for college, etiquette, dressing for success, public speaking and debate, leadership development, current events, financial planning, community service, conflict resolution, and entrepreneurship; and

Whereas, annually, the Charleston Youth Leadership Council sponsors an end‑of‑year cultural trip and college tour, the black‑tie Beaux Affair Ball, a Kwanzaa celebration, a beau/elder retreat, and a father/son retreat that Charleston Mayor Joseph Riley has addressed twice; and

Whereas, with financial support from Charleston Weed and Seed, more than four hundred fifty young men have completed the nine‑month “Rites‑of‑Passage” program, and the Charleston Youth Leadership Council, Inc., has awarded over $180,000 in scholarships over the last quarter of a century; and

Whereas, recognized by former President Bill Clinton, the Beaux Affair Program continues to be one of the most successful and highly acclaimed programs for males in South Carolina; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives appreciates the noteworthy work of the Charleston Youth Leadership Council Beaux Affair “Rites‑of‑Passage” program and celebrates with its members its quarter of a century of success. 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 the outstanding work of the Charleston Youth Leadership Council for its Beaux Affair “Rites‑of‑Passage” program and congratulate the organizers, elders, mentors, young men, and families involved in this significant program as they celebrate twenty‑five years in the Charleston area.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to members of the Charleston Youth Leadership Council, Inc.

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