**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE WILLIAM CRAIG DUENSING, RICHLAND NORTHEAST HIGH SCHOOL FINE ARTS DIRECTOR, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT, TO COMMEND HIM FOR HIS THIRTY‑EIGHT YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE AS AN EDUCATOR, AND TO WISH HIM MUCH HAPPINESS AND FULFILLMENT IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, it is with great pleasure that the South Carolina Senate honors those individuals who give tirelessly of themselves to the welfare of this great state’s most important legacy, its children; and

Whereas, William Craig Duensing, retiring after thirty‑eight fruitful years as a teacher, stands among their number as an outstanding public benefactor, one much admired in his role as both educator and community leader; and

Whereas, Craig received his early teacher training at the University of South Carolina, finishing with a bachelor’s degree in education, followed by a master’s degree in music education; and

Whereas, in 1975, an eager first‑year teacher, he began his work as an educator at Lower Richland High School in Hopkins. In 2013, at Columbia’s Richland Northeast High School, Craig will conclude an honored teaching career of nearly four decades; and

Whereas, long acknowledged as a master teacher, Craig was named 1994 Richland Northeast Teacher of the Year and 1995 Richland Two District Teacher of the Year. Further, in 1999 he was selected to travel to Japan as a Fulbright Memorial Scholar for a three‑week seminar; and

Whereas, in addition to his work at Richland Northeast High, where he has served as director of the choral program since the school’s opening in 1978, this committed educator is currently vocal director for Palmetto Center for the Arts. Craig, who also has served as minister of music at Lugoff First Baptist and North Trenholm Baptist churches, presently serves as Kilbourne Park Baptist Church interim minister of music; and

Whereas, for twenty years, Craig also was director of the TriDistrict Arts Consortium (TriDAC), which serves hundreds of artistically gifted and talented students in grades 6‑9 every summer; and

Whereas, this multiskilled, multitalented musician has been guest clinician and adjudicator at state functions and accompanist for the South Carolina All‑State Honors Chorus on several occasions. His Cavalier Chorale, a consistent winner in regional festivals, has been selected to perform at Walt Disney World’s EPCOT Center multiple times in recent years. In 2000, he conducted a 225‑voice choir and orchestra in a presentation of Handel’s *Samson*; and

Whereas, in 2005, Craig brought to life PB&J (Pop, Broadway & Jazz), a vocal group that has performed all over the Palmetto State, at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and, on several occasions, at Walt Disney World; and

Whereas, to honor Craig at this very special time in his life, on May 20, 2013, family and friends will join with him at a surprise reception in celebration of his retirement; and

Whereas, having set the bar of achievement high in his profession, Craig Duensing will be remembered upon his retirement with affection and gratitude by colleagues, students, parents, and legislative friends for years to come. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate William Craig Duensing, Richland Northeast High School fine arts director, on the occasion of his retirement, commend him for his thirty‑eight years of dedicated service as an educator, and wish him much happiness and fulfillment in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Craig Duensing.

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