**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND THE HONORABLE RAYMOND EDWIN CLEARY III FOR HIS TWELVE YEARS OF COMMITTED SERVICE AS A MEMBER OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SENATE AND TO WISH HIM ALL THE BEST IN THE YEARS TO COME.

Whereas, the Honorable Raymond Edwin Cleary III for twelve years has represented the citizens of District 34 in Charleston, Georgetown, and Horry counties, serving them loyally in the Senate of this great State; and

Whereas, a graduate of Ohio State University (1970) and the Ohio State College of Dentistry (1973), Ray Cleary serves his community as a dentist and is known as the “resident dentist of the Senate.” He is the son of Raymond E. and Rita Eileen Cleary and husband of A. Lisa Macklen; and

Whereas, not one to neglect his civic duty, Senator Cleary, a resident of Murrells Inlet, has served his community in numerous capacities, among them as a member of the Horry Georgetown Technical College Dental Hygiene Advisory Board, as well as of the Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club, and Lions Club. In addition, he has served his country as a captain in the United States Air Force; and

Whereas, during his legislative service, he has lent his expertise to the Finance Committee; General Committee; Invitations Committee, which he serves as chairman; Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee; Medical Affairs Committee; and Transportation Committee. He has also served as Senate chairman of the Green School Caucus and legislative member of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission; and

Whereas, in recognition of his spirit of excellence and dedicated service to the people of South Carolina, Ray Cleary has been granted various honors, among them the 2012 Senate Conservation Leadership Green Tie Award, 2012 Autism Academy of South Carolina Star Legislator Award, 2013 National Alliance on Mental Illness Legislator of the Year Award, and 2013 South Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants Award. Moreover, the Italian‑American community named him the Italian‑American Ambassador for South Carolina for annually introducing Italian‑American Heritage Month. He also worked more than five years to make raffles for charity legal and persistently debated road funding, introducing innovative methods to pave potholes; and

Whereas, Ray Cleary’s wonderful sense of humor and style and his leadership in the Senate will be greatly missed, especially regarding his decade‑plus of work on reform for the Certificate of Need program; and

Whereas, last, but not least, the members are hoping that when he departs from the Senate, Ray Cleary will consent to leave behind the grandfather clock that chimes every hour from his office because the Gressette Building will be too quiet without it. Furthermore, the members will have to find another early bird to unlock the parking garage every legislative day; and

Whereas, on the occasion of his departure from the Senate, his Senate colleagues, grateful for Ray Cleary’s labors on behalf of the citizens of District 34 and the entire State of South Carolina, extend their best wishes for much success and fulfillment in the new challenges he looks forward to in the days ahead. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and commend the Honorable Raymond Edwin Cleary III for his twelve years of committed service as a member of the South Carolina Senate and wish him all the best in the years to come.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to our distinguished colleague, the Honorable Raymond Edwin Cleary III.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑