**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR DR. JIM RAY, SUPERINTENDENT OF SPARTANBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT THREE, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER FORTY‑FIVE YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE IN EDUCATION, AND TO WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives has learned that Dr. Jim Ray will begin a well‑deserved retirement after forty‑five years as a premier educator, the last fifteen of which have been as the distinguished and highly‑regarded superintendent for Spartanburg School District Three; and

Whereas, in preparation for his life’s work, Dr. Ray earned a bachelor’s degree in secondary education in 1970 at the University of South Carolina and began a career in education teaching Spanish and physical science at Goose Creek High School and then math and science at Pleasant Hill Elementary School in Hemingway; and

Whereas, from 1971 to 1973, he served in Florence School District One as a teacher of Spanish and history at McClenaghan High School, where he also coached football and basketball; and

Whereas, Dr. Ray served in Florence as assistant principal of Williams Junior High School from 1973 to 1975 and as principal of Moore Junior High School the following year. He also completed a master’s degree in educational administration in 1975 and a degree as an educational specialist in educational leadership in 1978; and

Whereas, from 1976 to 1981, he served as the state coordinator and regional supervisor in the Secondary Schools Accreditation Office of the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) and then in various roles in the Administrators’ Leadership Academy of SCDE, assisting the state’s then ninety‑one school districts for ten years; and

Whereas, Dr. Ray earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Administration in 1980 and pursued post-doctoral coursework from 1990 to 1995, while he served as the associate superintendent for instruction in Kershaw County School District from 1991 to 1996; and

Whereas, he served as superintendent of Spartanburg School District Three from 1996 to 1999, and after a year off to serve as the deputy superintendent of SCDE, he returned to Spartanburg to serve in the same role. Under his leadership, the district received national accreditation and developed a state‑of‑the‑art technology system which has won five national awards; and

Whereas, among his many professional leadership roles, Dr. Ray has served on the board of the South Carolina Association of School Administrators (SCASA) since 2003, on the executive committee of the South Carolina Association of School Superintendents (SCASS) since 1992, on the board of directors for the South Carolina Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development (SCASCD) from 1992 to 1998, and on numerous committees for SCDE and the State Board of Education; and

Whereas, devoted to his community, he has served as a member and committee chair in Rotary International since 1993; on the board of directors and a committee chair for the Arts Partnership of Greater Spartanburg from 2000 to 2007, and on the board of directors for Spartanburg County Chamber of Commerce in 2002; and

Whereas, Dr. Ray was named Administrator of the Year in 2004 by SCASA and by SCASCD; in 2005 by the South Carolina Guidance Counselors’ Association and the South Carolina School Social Workers; and in 2007 by the South Carolina Career and Technology Educators; and

Whereas, he received the 2006 South Carolina Superintendent of the Year awards from SCASS and from the South Carolina Chapter of the American Cancer Society; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is grateful for the years of unparalleled dedication that Jim Ray has given to education in the Palmetto State and wish him many years of enjoyment in his well‑earned retirement. 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 Dr. Jim Ray, Superintendent of Spartanburg School District Three, upon the occasion of his retirement after forty‑five years of outstanding service, and wish him continued success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Jim Ray.

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