**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR DOROTHY G. HAM, PRINCIPAL OF WEBBER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, UPON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT AFTER MORE THAN THIRTY‑TWO YEARS OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE, AND TO WISH HER CONTINUED SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN ALL HER FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate have learned that Dorothy G. Ham will begin a well‑deserved retirement after more than three decades as a premier educator, the last seventeen of which have been as a distinguished and highly‑regarded principal at Webber Elementary School; and

Whereas, born and raised in Lake Worth, Florida, she received early education in the Palm Beach County School System and earned a bachelor’s degree from Florida State University in 1975; and

Whereas, after graduation she married her beloved husband, Dr. Willis C. Ham, who had served as her academic advisor. They are the proud parents of two fine adult sons, Clinton and Bryan; and

Whereas, in 1976, she began her career as an educator teaching first grade in the Cumberland County School System of North Carolina, and when she and her husband moved to South Carolina, she began studying for a master’s degree in elementary education, completing that degree in 1980; and

Whereas, she returned to teaching in the only child development center in Orangeburg School District 5 after the birth of her first son. Her classroom at Sheridan Elementary became a model site for the district and the State by 1988; and

Whereas, in 1989, she became an early childhood consultant at the South Carolina State Department of Education, managing a 15.2 million dollar budget and traveling the nation extensively for five years to help design and implement the state’s four‑year‑old child development program in ninety‑one school districts; and

Whereas, an advocate for early childhood and parenting programs, she served as South Carolina’s first African‑American president of the South Carolina Association for the Education of Young Children; and

Whereas, the position of early childhood consultant was created expressly for her in the Orangeburg district in 1994, where she wrote a grant to pilot the first elementary afterschool program; and

Whereas, by the time she left in 1998 to serve as principal at Webber Elementary School in Richland School District One, the program had expanded to all seven schools in the district; and

Whereas, in her seventeen years at Webber Elementary, the school has earned numerous awards and recognitions to include recognition as an exemplary afterschool program, a three‑time winner in the South Carolina Palmetto Gold and Silver Awards program, and eight years as a South Carolina Red Carpet School; and

Whereas, having completed an administrative degree program at the University of South Carolina, she has served as an elementary commission member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate is grateful for the years of unparalleled dedication that Dorothy Ham has devoted to educating young minds in the Palmetto State and wish her many years of enjoyment in her well‑earned retirement. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the Senate of the State of South Carolina, by this resolution, recognize and honor Dorothy G. Ham, Principal of Webber Elementary School, upon the occasion of her retirement after more than thirty‑two years of exemplary service, and wish her continued success and happiness in all her future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Dorothy G. Ham.

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