**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR CHIEF LARRY MCNEIL OF BENNETTSVILLE UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT, TO EXTEND DEEP APPRECIATION FOR HIS FORTY YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE, AND TO OFFER BEST WISHES FOR A SATISFYING AND REWARDING RETIREMENT.

Whereas, Chief Larry McNeil began his illustrious career in 1976 when he became a patrol officer for the Bennettsville Police Department. He graduated from the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy in 1977 and was invited shortly thereafter to participate as a guest instructor; and

Whereas, McNeil was promoted to Detective in 1982 and was promoted to Detective Lieutenant before leaving in 1988 to accept a position with the South Carolina Department of Corrections, where he would later become the first black Internal Affairs Officer; and

Whereas, he returned to Bennettsville in 2000 and was selected to serve as the Police Chief, establishing several programs to enhance the relationship between the police department and the citizens of Bennettsville, including the Active Bike Patrol, the Traffic Safety Unit, the Special Operation Response Team (SORT), Community Oriented Policing (COPS), and a program intended to serve as an alternative to school suspensions called Crossroads, which won the South Carolina Municipal Association Public Safety Award; and

Whereas, McNeil has served as the vice president and president of the South Carolina Police Chiefs Association and was elected Police Chief of the Year by the South Carolina Victim’s Advocate Association in 2010; and

Whereas, recognizing the importance of an education, he earned an associate’s degree from Chesterfield‑Marlboro Technical College in 1993 while working full time and raising his children. He then went on to complete a bachelor’s degree from Gardner Webb University and a Masters in Human Resource Development from Webster University; and

Whereas, McNeil is a member of Shiloh Baptist Church and serves as a Trustee member, Youth Ministry Advisor, and Sunday school teacher. He has two daughters, Koya Johnson and Leah McNeil, and three grandsons; and

Whereas, grateful for his exceptional service to those around him, the House of Representatives takes great pleasure in wishing Chief McNeil all the best as he enters retirement. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, honor Chief Larry McNeil on the occasion of his retirement, extend deep appreciation for his forty years of distinguished service, and offer best wishes for a satisfying and rewarding retirement.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Chief Larry McNeil.

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