**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR JONI CUTLER AND THE LATE SHEP CUTLER FOR THEIR EXCEPTIONAL SUPPORT AND COMMITMENT TO THE CUTLER JEWISH DAY SCHOOL, AND TO CONGRATULATE THE CUTLER JEWISH DAY SCHOOL ON ITS DEDICATION.

Whereas, the members of the House of Representatives are pleased to learn that the Cutler Jewish Day School (CJDS) had a dedication of its new school on November 20, 2016, to honor Joni Cutler and the late Shep Cutler, whose contributions made the new school possible; and

Whereas, Shep and Joni Cutler were two of the major contributors of CJDS and dedicated years of support and commitment to the school. After Shep’s death two years ago, Joni continued to be involved in the school; and

Whereas, CJDS has served the Columbia community for the past twenty‑four years. Currently the school serves 172 infants through fifth graders. The school has received an AA rating, the highest offered by the State, and over 95% of the students who graduate fifth grade are accepted in the gifted, talented, and advanced middle school magnet programs; and

Whereas, CJDS is the only private school to have University of South Carolina student teachers, including USC “math buddies” and Immersion Hebrew, which has children as young as kindergarten speaking and understanding Hebrew; and

Whereas, one parent stated, “The feeling you get each day, when you drop off and pick up knowing that your child has the opportunity to attend school there it is truly touching. There is a special feeling knowing that your child is so loved, protected, nurtured, and not to mention educated in all facets of life. I really feel that the children there at CJDS are a step ahead in life”; and

Whereas, inquiry‑based learning featuring expert projects is a focus of CJDS’s academic goals. The school believes that the goal of education is for children to construct knowledge as opposed to memorize information. This approach has been adopted in the new South Carolina State Standards. The school’s technology includes Chromebook devices for every child in second through fifth grade, plus additional devices for other classrooms use daily; and

Whereas, CJDS believes that warm Jewish teaching forms a positive Jewish identity, creates the beginnings of Jewish literacy, and focuses on character development. In first grade, children become fluent in reading, writing, and speaking Hebrew; and

Whereas, the members of the House of Representatives appreciate the outstanding contributions that Shep and Joni Cutler have given to the Cutler Jewish Day School over the years. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor Joni Cutler and the late Shep Cutler for their exceptional support and commitment to the Cutler Jewish Day School, and congratulate the Cutler Jewish Day School on its dedication.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Cutler Jewish Day School and Joni Cutler.

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