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**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE STEPHANIE M. JOHNSON ON HER EXTENSIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE WORLD OF EDUCATION AND TO HONOR HER FOR HER SERVICE TO THE CHILDREN OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, Stephanie M. Johnson, a second‑grade teacher at Columbia’s H.B. Rhame Elementary School in Richland County School District One, recently became the recipient of two of the most prestigious awards in the world of academia. Along with forty‑two other educators from across the nation, Stephanie was selected to receive a 2017 NEA Foundation California Casualty Award for Teaching Excellence, a distinct honor. From the forty‑three educators, five were then selected to receive the coveted 2017 Horace Mann Award for Teaching Excellence, Stephanie being among their number. She is the first educator within her school district to receive this illustrious accolade since the creation of the honor sixteen years ago; and

Whereas, furthermore, the NEA Foundation hosted the Salute to Excellence in Education Awards Gala, where award winners were recognized on February 10, 2017, in Washington D.C. This event was attended by more than eight hundred fifty community leaders. As an award winner, Ms. Johnson was in attendance, proudly representing this great State; and

Whereas, this Sumter native has been able to succeed through perseverance and dedication. Tenacity and hard work, having long been Stephanie’s constant companions, were evidenced in her achievements as she became the first person in her family to graduate from college. Further, she did not stop at an undergraduate degree but continued on to become an educator, secure National Board Certification, and become the first South Carolinian chosen as a Hope Street Group National Fellow; and

Whereas, Stephanie’s love of reading and her desire to obtain a stellar education drove her to earn an undergraduate degree in English and a master of arts in teaching from the University of South Carolina. Ms. Johnson has been able not only to succeed in her career field but also to find deep‑seated satisfaction in it. Stephanie states, “Becoming a teacher has enabled me to give back to the community and help others, which is what I feel life is all about”; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are grateful for the years Stephanie has dedicated to the education of young minds and are eager to hear of her future accomplishments. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the Senate of South Carolina, by this resolution, congratulate Stephanie M. Johnson on her extensive accomplishments in the world of education and honor her for her service to the children of South Carolina.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Stephanie M. Johnson.

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