**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE MIKE GRAY UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT FOR UNITED WAY OF THE MIDLANDS, TO COMMEND HIM FOR HIS THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE ORGANIZATION, AND TO WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to recognize Mike Gray upon the occasion of his retirement as the Senior Vice President of Resource Development for United Way of the Midlands in January of 2018; and

Whereas, Mike has served United Way of the Midlands in various capacities, having been the Vice President of Community Initiatives and the Executive Director for the Families, Individuals and Children’s Council. As the leader of more than twenty annual campaigns, he has helped raise more than $212 million to support United Way’s efforts to help children succeed in school, to create financial stability, and to improve the health of Midlands residents; and

Whereas, Mike’s leadership at United Way has also been crucial in the fight to reduce homelessness, improve childhood literacy, and encourage individuals to invest in their community. He has helped recruit and train more than 2,500 campaign volunteers and has worked in a variety of United Way settings to promote collaboration. He also headed an initiative to build and sustain two quality childcare facilities; and

Whereas, Mike has shown a continued dedication to philanthropy by serving on the Board of Directors for Fast Forward and Elder Care and as a member of the Energy Advisory Council, the Tocqueville Society, and SC Cares. In 2008, Mike was recognized by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Central SC Chapter as Outstanding Fundraising Executive; and

Whereas, Mike and his wife, Sharon, have raised two children of their own, fostered two young adults, hosted fourteen foreign exchange students, and fostered more than 200 rescue dogs over the years; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are grateful for the dedication and commitment that Mike Gray has shown in serving the people and the State of South Carolina. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate Mike Gray upon the occasion of his retirement as Senior Vice President of Resource Development for United Way of the Midlands, commend him for his thirty-five years of service to the organization, and wish him continued success in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mike Gray.

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