**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR SERGEANT JOHN BERTANG OF THE MYRTLE BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR HIS OUTSTANDING WORK WITH THE DEPARTMENT’S TRAFFIC UNIT, AND TO CONGRATULATE HIM FOR BEING NAMED THE MYRTLE BEACH ROTARY CLUB “OFFICER JOE MCGARRY MEMORIAL POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR” FOR 2008.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to learn that Sergeant John Bertang has been selected as the Myrtle Beach Rotary Club “Officer Joe McGarry Memorial Police Officer of the Year” for 2008; and

Whereas, in his twelve years with the Myrtle Beach Police Department, John Bertang has distinguished himself as an outstanding officer and member of the community. His exceptional leadership of the department’s Traffic Unit for the past three years resulted in a South Carolina DUI Department of the Year Award in 2008; and

Whereas, the Traffic Unit, under Sergeant Bertang’s command, is in charge of the 15th Judicial Law Enforcement Network (LEN), where fifteen police agencies set up monthly checkpoints at an announced location somewhere in Horry or Georgetown County. The 15th LEN was named Best Network for 2008‑2009, and other networks from South Carolina and North Carolina have modeled their LENs after that of the 15th; and

Whereas, Sergeant Bertang personally has issued tickets for more than six hundred traffic violations, but to his credit he also has given more than eight hundred fifty verbal warnings, showing his compassion for motorists in Myrtle Beach; and

Whereas, communication is more important than ever in law enforcement, and Sergeant Bertang has been an innovator in the advancement of exchange of crucial information between officers and departments; and

Whereas, the Myrtle Beach Traffic Unit’s excellence has become so well known along the Eastern Seaboard that the news media and various organizations have sought out Sergeant Bertang as an interview subject and speaker. Accordingly, he has lectured at Myrtle Beach High School and the Citizens Police Academy and has taught at Coastal Carolina University as a part‑time professor; and

Whereas, in an extension of his commitment to the community, Sergeant Bertang has just finished one hundred hours of community service as part of his participation in the Leadership Grand Strand Program. He is a volunteer at the Rape Crisis Center, Humane Society, and the J‑1 visa program for foreign exchange students; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives express their gratitude to Sergeant John Bertang for his dedicated service in protecting the citizens of Horry County and the State of South Carolina, and congratulate him on his receipt of this well‑deserved award. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor Sergeant John Bertang of the Myrtle Beach Police Department for his outstanding work with the department’s Traffic Unit, and congratulate him for being named the Myrtle Beach Rotary Club “Officer Joe McGarry Memorial Police Officer of the Year” for 2008.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Sergeant John Bertang.

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