**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR JUDITH ASHLEY BURTS, RETIRING EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT OF ERSKINE COLLEGE AND THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, FOR HER FORTY‑FOUR YEARS OF SERVICE TO ERSKINE, TO CONGRATULATE HER ON BEING PRESENTED AN HONORARY DOCTORATE OF HUMANE LETTERS, AND TO WISH HER MANY YEARS OF FULFILLMENT IN ALL HER FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, few things afford keener pleasure to the South Carolina House of Representatives than recognizing the selfless labors of those who promote the welfare of this great State’s most valuable resource, its young people; and

Whereas, Judith Ashley Burts, a native of Anderson County and retiring executive assistant to the president of Erskine College and Theological Seminary, ranks high in their distinguished company for her exemplary service to Erskine; and

Whereas, the daughter of Richard J. and Glendelle M. Ashley, Ms. Burts graduated from Honea Path High School, attended Erskine College for two years, and later participated in a professional‑development program at Appalachian State University; and

Whereas, she began her work in 1966 as the secretary to Erskine’s president and later was elevated to executive assistant to the president. She has served in that capacity under the past six presidents, as well as several interim and acting presidents, for a career spanning forty‑four years at the institution; and

Whereas, known as the “glue that holds the president’s office together,” she has demonstrated work of the highest caliber, strong character, unshakeable faith, a sacrificial spirit, loyalty, and discretion, all infused with the grace of God; and

Whereas, in addition, Ms. Burts has served as assistant secretary to the Erskine College Board of Trustees. She has worked closely with the chairman of the board, providing board and campus information, helping to organize board and committee meetings, and assisting various board committees in their work, among other duties. Her profound institutional knowledge and discreet handling of confidential information have gained her the trustees’ greatest respect; and

Whereas, in her key position at Erskine, Ms. Burts has maintained the president’s schedule and worked with trustees, faculty, staff, and students, as well as the general public, in arranging appointments with the president. As a result, she has been for many people the “face of Erskine” and has always fulfilled that role with grace and dignity; and

Whereas, a wise counselor, she has advised the president on critical areas of campus life and public‑relations opportunities and has touched the lives of countless students with compassionate caring; and

Whereas, while her work at Erskine has been the focus of much of her life, she has not neglected family, church, and community responsibilities. She is a lifelong member of Mount Bethel Baptist Church, where in the past she has taught Sunday School, sung in the choir, and participated actively in youth groups. Her social and community concerns have led her to volunteer with, and financially support, numerous worthy organizations; and

Whereas, in recognition of her faithful service in advancing the missions of the college and seminary for more than four decades, Erskine College and Theological Seminary will present Ms. Burts with the honorary degree of doctor of humane letters in May 2010, prior to her retirement on June 30; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives takes great pleasure in adding its voice of commendation to the many encomiums honoring this faithful servant of God, Judith Ashley Burts, and the members extend sincere wishes for many years of fruitful service to come. 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 Judith Ashley Burts, retiring executive assistant to the president of Erskine College and Theological Seminary, for her forty‑four years of service to Erskine, congratulate her on being presented an honorary doctorate of humane letters, and wish her many years of fulfillment in all her future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Judith Ashley Burts.

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