**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE W. E. “WILLIE” LYLES OF COLUMBIA UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT, TO COMMEND HIM FOR HIS THIRTY‑FOUR YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE AS AN EDUCATOR, AND TO WISH HIM MUCH HAPPINESS AND FULFILLMENT IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, it is with great pleasure that the South Carolina House of Representatives honors those individuals who give tirelessly of themselves to the welfare of this great State’s most important legacy, its children; and

Whereas, W. E. “Willie” Lyles, retiring after thirty‑four fruitful years as a high school music educator, stands among their number as an outstanding public benefactor, one much admired by colleagues, students, and parents alike; and

Whereas, Mr. Lyles received his teacher training at South Carolina State University, finishing with a degree in music education and later with a master’s degree in guidance and counseling. Further studies followed at North Carolina A&T State University, Columbia College, the University of South Carolina, and Winthrop University; and

Whereas, since 1976, he has served W.J. Keenan High School in Columbia as its band teacher. During his years there, he has motivated thousands of students to become performers, teachers, consumers, and lovers of music; and

Whereas, he has been active in the Music Educators National Conference, South Carolina Music Educators Association, South Carolina Band Directors Association, and International Association for Jazz Education; and

Whereas, as a member of the South Carolina Band Directors Association, Mr. Lyles was instrumental in founding the All‑State Jazz Band and Festival. His marching, concert, and jazz bands have represented Richland County School District One and the State of South Carolina at numerous events across the Southeast; and

Whereas, during his more than three decades as band teacher and director at Keenan, he has served as a clinician and judge in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia; co‑hosted the Palmetto Invitational Marching Competition and Exhibition; and served as assistant band director for Benedict College in Columbia, among other endeavors; and

Whereas, a skilled performer himself, Willie Lyles has played with numerous groups over the years, including the Vibrations Band and Show, with which he has performed since 1974; and

Whereas, he and his wife, Sarah, are the proud parents of five children, Sebastian, Christopher, Brandon, Taurean, and DeNae, and enjoy five grandchildren; and

Whereas, during Mr. Lyles’ well‑earned retirement, he plans to continue active involvement with jazz education in South Carolina. The network of teachers and performers he has inspired in the past thirty‑four years will continue to call upon his expertise as a clinician, mentor, and friend; and

Whereas, having set the bar of achievement high in his profession, Willie Lyles will be remembered with affection and gratitude by colleagues, students, parents, and legislative friends for years 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, congratulate W. E. “Willie” Lyles of Columbia upon the occasion of his retirement, commend him for his thirty‑four years of dedicated service as an educator, and wish him much happiness and fulfillment in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to W. E. “Willie” Lyles.

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