**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR ARJUN AGGARWAL OF COLUMBIA ON BEING NAMED A DAVIDSON INSTITUTE FOR TALENT DEVELOPMENT DAVIDSON FELLOW, TO CONGRATULATE HIM ON THE $25,000 SCHOLARSHIP THAT ACCOMPANIES THE AWARD, AND TO WISH HIM SUCCESS AS HE PREPARES TO EMBARK ON HIS COLLEGE CAREER.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly are pleased to hear that Arjun Aggarwal of Columbia, son of Praveen and Madhu Aggarwal, has been named a 2011 Davidson Fellow by the Davidson Institute for Talent Development. The award carries with it a $25,000 scholarship that may be used at any school of the student’s choice; and

Whereas, planning to major in a medical‑related field in college with a career as a physician in view, Arjun has been a leader far beyond the classroom. Boy Scouts has been a major influence in Arjun’s life, teaching him leadership skills he will carry with him the rest of his life. He is an Eagle Scout and a member of the Order of the Arrow, Scouting’s National Honor Society; and

Whereas, in addition, he plays soccer and swims competitively for his school and is the co‑founder of Ekal Vidyalaya Junior Chapter of South Carolina, part of a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing education to underprivileged children in rural India. Believing strongly in active community involvement, Arjun has served more than four hundred hours of community service for several organizations; and

Whereas, among his many awards are a 2011 European Organization for Nuclear Research all‑expense‑paid trip to tour CERN; 2011 I‑SWEEP International Science Fair Silver Medal; 2011, 2010 Junior Science & Humanities Symposium Best in Category, Outstanding Research; 2011, 2010, 2009 South Carolina Junior Academy of Science officer (president, vice president, secretary); 2011 Future Business Leaders of America vice president; 2011 Lexington Medical Center student intern; and 2011 American Junior Academy of Science induction as Lifetime Fellow with Full Honors for Outstanding Achievement at the National Level in Scientific Research and Leadership; and

Whereas, for his Davidson Fellows submission, Arjun’s project was “GNut‑III an A.I.R.V.I.S. (Anthropometric Interactive Robot With Vision, Intelligence and Speech).” He found the lack of an economically efficient and functional humanoid robot has prohibited researchers from continuing to expand the field of robotics. To counter this, the GNut‑III is economically efficient and functional for testing robotic algorithms. In addition to the GNut‑III, Arjun has outlined a scattered open‑source community to work on a standardized platform that could transform robotics in the same way it has transformed computing; and

Whereas, ever since he can remember, this Advanced Placement scholar has been curious about technology and has been taking things apart. This curiosity did not bode well for his family computer but taught him a great deal about technology and gave him a thirst for further exploration; and

Whereas, he firmly believes that humanoid robots are crucial for solving some of our biggest problems. Through his research, he found that little new work was being done in the field, largely due to the prohibitive cost, between twenty thousand and fifty thousand dollars. Arjun was able to build the GNut‑III for $2,786. Every aspect of the GNut‑III, from construction to the programming of its functions, was done solely by Arjun at his home, completely unmentored. He feels the biggest thing he learned from undertaking this complex and multifaceted project was perseverance in pushing himself through problems; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly are pleased to have the opportunity to recognize such a notable student and leader as Arjun Aggarwal, who has brought great pride to his family, school, and community. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, recognize and honor Lexington High School senior Arjun Aggarwal of Columbia on being named a Davidson Institute for Talent Development Davidson Fellow, congratulate him on the $25,000 scholarship that accompanies the award, and wish him success as he prepares to embark on his college career.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Arjun Aggarwal.

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