**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND SOUTH CAROLINA’S THOROUGHBRED OWNERS AND TRAINERS AND THEIR SOUTH CAROLINA TRAINED HORSES, ALL OF WHOSE PERFORMANCES BRING HONOR TO THE PALMETTO STATE.

Whereas, the House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the equine industry is booming in South Carolina and that South Carolina trained horses have received national attention for their recent wins; and

Whereas, according to Lee Christian, president of the South Carolina Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association, the three Classic days, when the Kentucky Derby, Kentucky Oaks, and Preakness Stakes are run, were outstanding for South Carolina prepared horses, which nailed a number of high‑profit graded stakes; and

Whereas, on May 6, 2011, Camden based John Fort won the Kentucky Oaks with Plum Pretty, a filly prepared by Kip Elser of Camden. Running second was St. John’s River, prepared in Camden by Nancy Terhune; and

Whereas, on Kentucky Derby Day, May 7, 2011, Aikenite, owned by the South Carolina based partnership Dogwood Stable and prepared in Aiken by Ron Stevens, ran away with his second straight Grade II victory in the $348,900 Churchill Downs Stake; prepared in Camden by Donna Freyer, Get Stormy won the Woodford Reserve Stake; and Sassy Image, prepared in Elloree by Franklin Smith, won the Humana Distaff Stake; and

Whereas, at the 136th Preakness Stakes in Baltimore, held on May 21, 2011, Apart won the William Donald Schaeffer Memorial Stake, with preparation given by Jane Dunn in Holly Hill, and Paddy O’Prado, prepared in Elloree by Franklin Smith, won the Dixie Stake. To crown it all, Shackleford, trained by Webb Carroll in St. Matthews, captured the Preakness Stake; and

Whereas, South Carolina has become a popular destination for equine tourists, who arrive in the fall of each year and train until the spring before going on to their racehorse careers; and

Whereas, the equine industry’s overall economic impact on the Palmetto State exceeds one hundred million dollars annually; and

Whereas, grateful for the wonderful publicity and economic boost brought to South Carolina through its thoroughbred owners and trainers, the House of Representatives takes great pleasure in honoring the equine industry in our State, and the members wish much success to the industry in all its future endeavors. 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 commend South Carolina’s thoroughbred owners and trainers and their South Carolina trained horses, all of whose performances bring honor to the Palmetto State.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the South Carolina Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association.

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