**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO COMMEND THE HONORABLE DANIEL T. COOPER OF ANDERSON COUNTY FOR HIS TWENTY‑ONE YEARS OF COMMITTED SERVICE AS A MEMBER OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND HIS LEADERSHIP AS CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE SINCE 2005, AND TO WISH HIM ALL THE BEST IN THE YEARS TO COME.

Whereas, the Honorable Daniel T. Cooper of Anderson County for twenty‑one years has loyally represented the citizens of House District 10 in Anderson County in the House of Representatives of this great State, and since 2005 has led the House Ways and Means Committee as chairman; and

Whereas, in representing the citizens of House District 10, Chairman Cooper followed in the footsteps of his late father, the Honorable M. J. “Dolly” Cooper of happy memory, who represented the citizens of District 10 for sixteen years; and

Whereas, a 1984 graduate of Clemson University and devoted Clemson fan, and a resident of Piedmont, Dan Cooper is vice president of Capstone Insurance Services, LLC; and

Whereas, Chairman Cooper believes strongly in personal involvement with his community, and his convictions have led him to serve the people of South Carolina in numerous capacities, including as a member of the Pelzer Lions Club, planner for the Anderson County Planning and Development Board (1984), planner for the South Carolina Water Resources Commission, Strom Thurmond Institute, 1985‑87, past commander of the SCV Jefferson Davis Camp #7, member of the Hunley Commission, and member of the Southern Small Business Association, among other commitments. In addition, he has served as Cub Scout den leader for Pack 13 of the Blue Ridge Council (Boy Scouts of America), and as a member of the First Citizens Bank Advisory Board in Easley; and

Whereas, in recognition of his decades of service to the people of South Carolina, Dan Cooper has been granted honorary doctorates by the Medical University of South Carolina (2006), Coastal Carolina University (2007), The Citadel (2008), Clemson University (2008), and Anderson University (2009) and was named laureate of the Order of the Palmetto in June, 2011, by Governor Nikki Haley; and

Whereas, married to the former Melissa Shellenbarger since 1992, he is the proud father of two children, Leanne Alexandra and Daniel T. II; and

Whereas, Dan Cooper, a man of faith, finds strength through worship at Mt. Airy Baptist Church, as well as through the firm support of his family; and

Whereas, he was honored by his colleagues in the House Ways and Means Committee when they elected him chairman in 2005 and he has served with distinction in this position ever since. In addition, as a result of being chairman of Ways and Means, he also serves as a member of the State Budget and Control Board and the State of South Carolina has been fortunate that he has served in these positions during a period of financial uncertainty and adversity which has required the great leadership he has provided; and

Whereas, never one to sit by silently when there is good natured needling to be done, attested to by a nameless Legislative Council attorney whose tiny error of misspelling the same word a dozen times in one amendment, an error spotted only by the eagle eye of Representative Cooper, thus allowing the chairman license to torment that attorney for more than a dozen years, Chairman Cooper makes it clear that while the legislative process is serious business, it also lends itself to good fun; and

Whereas, he is possessed of a sense of humor and innate kindness that allows him to deal gently and sympathetically with constituents frantic about the imminent arrival of black helicopters, in suggesting to them that lettering on the back of highway signs is not a secret code providing directions to the black helicopter pilots and crews, and in agreeing with them that tin foil hats are the ideal defense against extraterrestrial mind control plots; and

Whereas, his skill in the appropriations process has set the bar high for his successors as both a member of the Ways and Means Committee and as chairman of that committee, evidenced by his ability to move the annual general appropriations bill through committee and House Floor consideration in record time, on one occasion by getting that bill enacted without having to resort to a conference committee, by his shepherding through committee and the House of Representatives an unprecedented “recission” bill reducing specific fiscal year 2008‑2009 appropriations in response to the precipitous decline in state revenues resulting from the grip of the economic recession on the State’s economy, and by his ability to protect funding for a much needed hook and ladder fire truck for Powdersville from the line item veto pen of the then Governor, who, after a determined effort, was unable to find the fire truck appropriation in the 2004 ‑ 2005 general appropriations act; and

Whereas, on the occasion of his retirement from the House of Representatives, his House colleagues, grateful for Dan Cooper’s faithful service in that body, extend their best wishes for much success and fulfillment in the new challenges he looks forward to in the days ahead. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, commend the Honorable Daniel T. Cooper of Anderson County for his twenty‑one years of committed service as a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives and his leadership as Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee since 2005, and wish him all the best in the years to come.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to our distinguished colleague, the Honorable Dan Cooper.

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