**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR DEB SOFIELD, PRESIDENT OF EXECUTIVE SPEECH & PRESENTATIONS COACHING CO., FOR SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS IN HER COMMUNITY, IN THE STATE, IN THE NATION, AND ABROAD.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to learn that Deb Sofield will be honored at the Fourth Annual Leading Women Dinner hosted by Southeastern Institute for Women in Politics on April 24, 2012; and

Whereas, each year, the Institute sponsors a dinner to celebrate those who have helped break barriers and to applaud groundbreaking South Carolina women who have been bold and forward‑thinking role models for those who follow; and

Whereas, through her company, Deb Sofield trains women and men for success in speaking, presentation skills, and message development in the United States and abroad; and

Whereas, she serves as a visiting professor, teaching public speaking at Harvard University in the John F. Kennedy School of Government for the Women in Public Policy Program; at the Women’s Campaign School of Yale University, where she is past president of the board; at the University of South Carolina School of Journalism and Mass Communications; and at the Ethics in Government program of the Thurmond Institute’s Self Civic Fellows program at Clemson University; and

Whereas, she also works with the International Republican Institute of Washington, D. C., teaching communications training for civil society around the world, and she was a mentor and trainer for CLIME, the Center for Liberty in the Middle East, helping plant seeds of democracy in the Middle East; and

Whereas, her active community involvement includes representing the City of Greenville as a Commissioner of Public Works for the Water System, the first woman to hold this position since it was created in 1918; and

Whereas, a former member of Greenville City Council, Deb Sofield holds one of the highest vote victories in a district city election by overwhelmingly winning every precinct; and

Whereas, she was awarded the Order of the Palmetto, the state’s highest civilian honor, and she was named Communicator of the Year by the Association for Women in Communications; and

Whereas, she won the prestigious Toastmasters District 58 Communication and Leadership Award for the State of South Carolina and was awarded the Strom Thurmond Excellence in Public Service honor; and

Whereas, the Greenville Chamber of Commerce named her the 2005 Athena Award recipient for her work with young people and aspiring politicians; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the pride and recognition that Deb Sofield has brought to her community and to the Palmetto State and for her work that has enabled other women to break barriers. 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 Deb Sofield, President of Executive Speech & Presentations Coaching Co., for significant contributions in her community, in the State, in the nation, and abroad.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Deb Sofield.

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