**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR G & G METAL FABRICATION, INC., AND TO CONGRATULATE THE OWNER AND FOUNDER, THOMAS E. GARRITY, FOR BEING NAMED THE GREATER SUMTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR FOR 2011.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to learn that Thomas E. Garrity was recognized as Business Person of the Year at the annual retreat of the Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce; and

Whereas, when Mr. Garrity first opened his company, G & G Metal Fabrication, Inc., he had a four‑person operation that specialized in creating tools and apparatus, primarily fire trucks, for fire stations in South Carolina and across the country; and

Whereas, begun in 1984, the company grossed two hundred thousand dollars in its first year, and twenty‑eight years later, the company employs twenty people and grossed three million seven hundred thousand dollars in 2010; and

Whereas, in 1991, a division for fire‑equipment services was added, and since then the facility has expanded to thirty‑five thousand square feet; and

Whereas, Thomas Garrity has himself served as a fireman at the Wedgefield station since 1991, has been a captain since 1997, and for a number of years, has sponsored the Firefighters Barbeque Challenge to benefit the Red Cross; and

Whereas, in 2006, the business received the South Carolina Palmetto Workforce Award and has been recognized as Sumter County’s Small Manufacturer of the Year from 2003 to 2005 and in 2007, 2010, and 2011; and

Whereas, in 2009 and 2011, G & G Metal Fabrication, Inc., received the South Carolina Silver Crescent Award for Manufacturing; and

Whereas, by paying close attention to the fire‑equipment market and what was needed, Mr. Garrity has been able to supply emergency personnel with the tools they need and to adapt his business during times of economic prosperity and paucity; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the economic impact that Thomas E. Garrity has made on Sumter County and for the service that G & G Metal Fabrication, Inc., provides to protect citizens not only of South Carolina but also throughout the nation. 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 G & G Metal Fabrication, Inc., and congratulate the owner and founder, Thomas E. Garrity, for being named the Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce Business Person of the Year for 2011.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Thomas E. Garrity.

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