**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR CARRIE BAKER LENOIR AND HER SON STEVE LENOIR, AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR THEIR FAMILY’S TWO HUNDRED‑YEAR HISTORY OF SERVING THE CITIZENS OF HORATIO IN THE HORATIO MERCANTILE STORE AND POST OFFICE.

Whereas, the members of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina pause in their deliberation to express their deep appreciation to the LeNoir family of Sumter County for two centuries of devotion and commitment to serving the community of Horatio; and

Whereas, nestled quietly between the Wateree River and Deacons Mill Pond, Horatio is home to almost one thousand people where fertile fields are dotted with picturesque farmhouses and where the soft songs of birds and the steady sputtering of tractors has replaced the cacophony of the city; and

Whereas, to residents of Horatio, the LeNoir Mercantile Store and Post Office is a place to see their neighbors, to be greeted by name, to share good news, and to give and receive words of comfort; and

Whereas, the oldest business in Sumter County, the LeNoir Mercantile Store has been run by the LeNoir family at the current site since before 1808, and the present building, now on the National Register of Historic Places, was built before 1878; and

Whereas, a one‑room country store that has served the Town of Horatio for over two hundred years, the general store does not do a lot of business anymore, but the post office attracts people every day to the one hundred twenty‑five rented post office boxes; and

Whereas, the century‑old Horatio Post Office may become one of twenty‑seven locations statewide and over three thousand nationwide forced to close in an attempt to save the United States Postal Service three billion dollars in order to continue service; and

Whereas, Steve LeNoir, vice president of the National League of Postmasters, has been postmaster of the Horatio Post Office for thirty‑one years and is concerned that the United States Postal Service is considering profits above people; and

Whereas, his mother, Carrie Baker LeNoir, was postmaster for thirty‑three years before him, and she led the fight when the agency wanted to close the post office in 1976, which ended with the closure of another post office a couple of miles away; and

Whereas, Carrie LeNoir, now 91, served her community in various civic affairs, including the Sumter County Democratic Party, the Poinsett Garden Club, and the flower show at the county fair, and she served as a volunteer with the Horatio Fire Department; and

Whereas, a quintessential Southern lady, she could drive a fire truck to help her neighbors, run an efficient post office, arrange a bouquet of flowers, and serve tea for visitors with the same grace and ease; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the service to the community that the Horatio Mercantile Store and Post Office has brought to the Horatio community and for the dedicated contributions of the LeNoir family. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina, by this resolution, recognize and honor Carrie Baker LeNoir and her son Steve LeNoir, and congratulate them for their family’s two hundred‑year history of serving the citizens of Horatio in the Horatio Mercantile Store and Post Office.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Carrie Baker LeNoir and Steve LeNoir.

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