**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE LIFETIME OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND THE PIONEERING VISION OF TERRY EDWIN LEE, A MAGNANIMOUS AND MODEST HERO AND FRIEND TO ALL WHO KNEW HIM.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives were saddened to learn of the passing of Terry Edwin Lee at the age of seventy‑two on February 23, 2016; and

Whereas, Terry Lee helped to change the vista for persons with disabilities in South Carolina, Georgia, the Southeast, and across the United States. Always crediting the University of South Carolina for helping him achieve his potential, he bled USC garnet and black and always treasured his return visits to Columbia for Saturday football games. Like a true Gamecock, Terry Lee always kept going, even when the going got tough; and

Whereas, born on March 28, 1943, in the town of Blackville, South Carolina in Barnwell County, he was the son of the late Eugenia (Jean) Dyches Lee and the late Henry Edwin Lee. His hero was his maternal grandfather Malcolm Dyches, known as “Little Dad”; and

Whereas, on September 8, 1956, at the age of thirteen, Terry Lee was wounded in a hunting accident and became a paraplegic with a T‑4 spinal injury, paralyzed from mid‑chest down; and

Whereas, he graduated with honors from Brookland‑Cayce High School in 1961, where he was voted most popular in his class of three hundred students; and

Whereas, in May 1966, Mr. Lee earned a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration‑Banking and Finance from the University of South Carolina, the second wheelchair graduate at USC, following the late Freddy Day who was the first. Mr. Lee was a member of the Delta Sigma Pi scholastic fraternity while at USC. He attended USC before there were curb cuts, ramps, or wide doors to assist students with physical disabilities; and

Whereas, a lifelong Gamecock fan, he proudly held Gamecock football season tickets for over forty years. During his days as a student at the University of South Carolina, he was recognized as an honorary member of the Block C Athletic Football Club; and

Whereas, for more than twenty years, Mr. Lee enjoyed a successful career in the commercial mortgage loan division of Adams‑Cates Real Estate, a premier commercial Atlanta developer of office parks and shopping malls, before he retired on disability and returned home to Blackville; and

Whereas, at the Twenty‑Second National Wheelchair Games in 1980, he compiled 4,366 points to win a gold medal in the pentathlon, consisting of the 100‑yard dash; 200‑yard dash; 50‑yard freestyle swim; javelin throw; and archery, shooting forty‑eight arrows at a target fifty yards away using a recurve bow; and

Whereas, at the same games that year, Mr. Lee won bronze medals for third‑place finishes in the 50‑yard front freestyle swim, the 100‑yard dash, and the 880‑relay; and

Whereas, a member of the USA wheelchair track, swim, and basketball teams for years, he was a world‑class wheelchair sprinter, swimmer, and medal winner in the pentathlon event; and

Whereas, he pioneered the development of competitive field athletics for the disabled under the auspices of the Dixie Wheelchair Athletic Association and launched a Youth Wheelchair Sports Program in Atlanta with Carol Adams. Mr. Lee insisted that children in wheelchairs have the opportunity to participate on the athletic field. He coached youth wheelchair basketball and track, as well as Little League baseball, and was a role model for children with disabilities as he coached in the Youth Wheelchair Sports Program in Atlanta and in Cobb, DeKalb, and Gwinnett counties; and

Whereas, he inspired young people with disabilities by showing them what they could accomplish, and he realized that young athletes would try harder if their coach were in a wheelchair and had triumphed over the same challenges; and

Whereas, to encourage and inspire children and adults who had suffered spinal cord injuries, Mr. Lee visited many of them, sometimes presenting one of his medals to a child as a tangible reminder of what could be achieved; and

Whereas, an anonymous donor commissioned Ed Dwight, a renowned sculptor and the first African‑American astronaut trainee in the NASA space program, to create a bronzed nine‑foot‑tall statue depicting Terry Lee hurling a javelin. Serving as an unspoken symbol of courage and hope for others, the sculpture was placed next to the portico entrance of the Shepherd Spinal Rehabilitation Center at 2020 Peachtree Road, NW, in Atlanta, Georgia. The plaque on this sculptural and inspirational centerpiece of the Shepherd Center reads: “Terry Lee—an accomplished athlete and real estate manager, who personified the remarkable spirit of a man to triumph over spinal cord injury and lead a full, active life. Dedicated May 22, 1986”; and

Whereas, throughout his life, Terry Lee never let his injury dampen his enthusiasm for sports activity, including hunting and fishing. By maintaining mental and physical strength and agility, he refused to let a physical disability hinder him. He always showed a strong independent spirit and determination, and as he led the way for others to achieve success, he encouraged both young and old to persevere. 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 the lifetime of accomplishments and the pioneering vision of Terry Edwin Lee, a magnanimous and modest hero and friend to all who knew him.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to the family of Terry Edwin Lee.

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