**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO APPLAUD AND HONOR THE TOWN THEATRE OF COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA, ON THE OCCASION OF ITS CENTENNIAL SEASON AND TO CELEBRATE THIS MOMENTOUS MILESTONE.

Whereas, the members of the Senate of the Palmetto State deem it appropriate to pause in their deliberations to offer an ovation to the Town Theatre in Columbia, South Carolina, for wholesomely entertaining the citizens of this beautiful State for one hundred years; and

Whereas, the Town Theatre was founded in 1919 by a nucleus of public‑spirited Columbians who yearned for a live community theatre in the Capital City. In September 2018, the one hundredth anniversary of this beginning will occur with the commencement of the centennial season; and

Whereas, the first home for the theatre was located at the converted Sloan House on Sumter Street. Today, the theatre incorporates this original property within its current structure. The present building was erected in 1924 using primarily local materials, placing it on the National Register of Historic Places; and

Whereas, the Town Theatre stage boasts a rich history of showcasing widely acclaimed talent. Carl Sandburg read poetry; Martha Graham danced; DuBose Heyward lectured; artist Jasper Johns painted; and Academy Award winners Delbert Mann and Stanley Donen acted. By virtue of its one hundredth season, Town Theatre holds a perpetual mandate as a beacon for quality theatre, a treasure for the City of Columbia, the State of South Carolina, and, indeed, the Nation; and

Whereas, Town Theatre has maintained the founders’ dream of serving as a theatre group to produce plays incorporating local talent. An estimated more than thirty thousand individuals come through the doors each year as performers, patrons, students, and volunteers. Annually, Town Theatre produces five main stage productions and a large summer extravaganza show, which is generally geared towards young people; and

Whereas, Town Theatre is home to a vibrant youth theatre program that includes weekly classes and summer camps, which has grown by nine hundred percent in an eighteen‑year period; and

Whereas, the Town Theatre is the longest‑running community theatre continuously operating in the United States; and

Whereas, to honor the centennial season, the theatre is using the tag line “Honoring our past with appreciation. Enjoying our present with awe. Claiming our future with anticipation.” On Sunday, August 12, the theatre will host a “Tip of the Hat” celebration, where its historical marker is unveiled and a presentation of the first production ever performed at the theatre will be showcased; and

Whereas, the members of the Senate of South Carolina are grateful for the culture the Town Theatre has brought to our Capital City and wish it many more years of dramatic success. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, applaud and honor the Town Theatre of Columbia, South Carolina, on the occasion of its centennial season and celebrate this momentous milestone.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Town Theatre.

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