**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO COMMEND SHEALY’S BAR‑B‑QUE, TOMMY SHEALY, AND THE SHEALY FAMILY FOR A HALF‑CENTURY OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AND TO EXTEND WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS ON THE OCCASION OF SHEALY’S BAR‑B‑QUE’S FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to learn that Shealy’s Bar‑B‑Que is celebrating fifty‑years of outstanding food and service in Batesburg‑Leesville and is set to continue its proud legacy; and

Whereas, in the early 1950s, Victor and Sara Shealy would barbeque whole hogs on the weekends and sell the meat by the pound as a way to earn extra income. As word spread about their delicious pork basted with Victor’s homemade mustard barbeque sauce, friends and family began encouraging them to open a restaurant; and

Whereas, in June 1969, Victor and Sara, along with their teenage children, Tommy and Nancy, opened Shealy’s Bar‑B‑Que House in a one‑room building furnished with appliances and tables from their own home; and

Whereas, Shealy’s Bar‑B‑Que has become a landmark in the Batesburg‑Leesville community. Today, the restaurant is open five days a week, can seat over three hundred fifty patrons, has an area for carryout and bulk orders, and provides catering services across the State. Their “all‑you‑can‑eat buffet” features their renowned barbeque and over forty home‑cooked sides that have earned them a reputation that draws crowds from near and far; and

Whereas, in addition to enhancing the community with their delicious food, the Shealy family has also dedicated themselves to strengthening Batesburg‑Leesville by creating family‑friendly events in order to encourage a close‑knit atmosphere. As a member of the Leesville Merchants Association, Sara, along with her son Tommy, were fundamental in the founding of the South Carolina Poultry Festival, an annual event that celebrates the spirit of the people in the area and highlights the largest agribusiness in the State; and

Whereas, having received his mother’s passion for serving the community, Tommy still serves on the SC Poultry Festival Steering Committee, and in 2013, was honored as the festival’s Distinguished Citizen. In addition, Tommy, along with other community leaders and departments, dedicated his time and talents to bringing the community an updated space for recreation and fellowship by revitalizing the Leesville College Park; and

Whereas, after serving with the Batesburg‑Leesville Fire Department for thirty‑four years, twenty‑six of which were as the Fire Chief, Tommy decided to hang up his hat in 2012. During his tenure with the Department, he spearheaded the construction of a new fire station for both Leesville and Batesburg, equipping the area with one of the best apparatus fleets; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the years that the Shealy family has dedicated to providing food for the Batesburg‑Leesville community. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, commend Shealy’s Bar‑B‑Que, Tommy Shealy, and the Shealy family for a half‑century of service to the community and extend warmest congratulations on the occasion of Shealy’s Bar‑B‑Que’s fiftieth anniversary.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Tommy Shealy and the Shealy family.

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