**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE WILLIAM WALLACE OSWALD UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS CHIEF OF POLICE OF THE BATESBURG‑LEESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT, TO COMMEND HIM FOR HIS FORTY-TWO YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO BATESBURG, AND TO WISH HIM MUCH HAPPINESS AND FULFILLMENT IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to recognize Chief William Wallace Oswald upon the occasion of his retirement from the Batesburg‑Leesville Police Department in June 2022; and

Whereas, Chief Oswald began his career in law enforcement with the Batesburg Police Department in 1976. In 1979, Chief Oswald was promoted to the position of Chief of Police, where he remained until the towns of Batesburg and Leesville consolidated in 1993. Chief Oswald was appointed the first Chief of Police of the newly unified Batesburg‑Leesville Police Department, where he remains to this day; and

Whereas, Chief Oswald has instituted numerous programs and initiatives to improve services to the community and the safety of his officers. He was the first officer of the Batesburg‑Leesville Police Department to graduate from the prestigious FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. In 1976, Chief Oswald instituted the department’s first explosives response program, and, in 1981, Chief Oswald became the first Batesburg‑Leesville Police Department to provide bullet-resistant body armor to his officers to increase officer safety; and

Whereas, Chief Oswald installed and began video recording the administration of the breathalyzer and later the BAC Datamaster as early as 1984 for inclusion as evidence in court. In 1992, he oversaw the development of the Batesburg‑Leesville Police Department’s first Narcotics Interdiction Dog Program and the development of the Batesburg‑Leesville Police Department’s first Tracking Dog Program; and

Whereas, while serving in his capacity as a law enforcement officer and leader of the Batesburg‑Leesville Police Department, Chief Oswald has many times placed his officers’ needs and the needs of the department ahead of his own personal and professional needs. He has demonstrated the embodiment of self-sacrifice and genuine care for the community and its citizens. There have been many times when Chief Oswald has gone without by using outdated equipment himself in order to ensure that his officers have the best of what the department can afford, and that his officers are properly equipped for their safety when funding is not readily available; and

Whereas, a veteran of the United States Army, Chief Oswald served in the Army National Guard located in Batesburg. In 1988, following his enlistment in the regular active duty US Army and prior to his law enforcement endeavors, Chief Oswald joined the South Carolina Army National Guard. Before retiring in 2011, he rose through the enlisted ranks to attain the rank of Command Sergeant Major. He was called to active duty twice since 2003, once to serve on active military duty in Iraq from March of 2003 to March of 2004 and a second time to serve on active military duty in Afghanistan from May of 2007 to March of 2008; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate appreciate the passion and dedication that Chief Oswald has shown in serving the people and the State of South Carolina. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate William Wallace Oswald upon the occasion of his retirement as chief of police, commend him for his forty-two years of dedicated service to Batesburg‑Leesville, and wish him much happiness and fulfillment in the years ahead.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Chief Oswald.

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