**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE CHRISTY ASHKETTLE, A NATIVE OF BLOEMFONTEIN, SOUTH AFRICA, UPON THE OCCASION OF HER NATURALIZATION AS A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that Christy Anne Ashkettle became a citizen of the United States of America on June 11, 2020; and

Whereas, born in Bloemfontein, South Africa, on July 25, 1980, Christy attended the University of South Africa in Johannesburg, South Africa; and

Whereas, Christy arrived in the United States in March 2009 and began working at NEXT Upstate in September 2014. She is now the director of community engagement, helping the Upstate’s high‑impact entrepreneur community create the jobs of the future; and

Whereas, Christy has been a nexus of community engagement for NEXT since her arrival in the Upstate. She has forged respect and friendships across the Upstate while supporting the clients of NEXT. The success of the organization can be linked to the many successes Christy has achieved. She was a driving force to deliver a stellar three‑day virtual Venture Pitch Conference in 2020. The conference featured thirty‑one start‑up companies and was lauded as an unprecedented success amidst the uncertainty and challenge of the COVID‑19 pandemic; and

Whereas, Christy immediately made an impact as a community leader in Greenville, an impact that has been furthered by her graduation from Leadership Greenville’s Class 46 in 2020; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives is proud to welcome those like Christy Ashkettle who choose to come to these shores and stand shoulder to shoulder with us as citizens of this great nation, and the members are delighted that she also has chosen to make her home in the Palmetto State. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate Christy Ashkettle, a native of Bloemfontein, South Africa, upon the occasion of her naturalization as a citizen of the United States of America.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Christy Ashkettle.

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