**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE AND HONOR EDDIE NEWMAN, DIRECTOR OF SUMTER COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT, TO EXTEND DEEP APPRECIATION FOR HIS FIFTY‑TWO YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE TO SUMTER COUNTY, AND TO OFFER BEST WISHES FOR A SATISFYING AND REWARDING RETIREMENT.

Whereas, since 1969, Sumter County has enjoyed the benefit of the dedication, experience, and leadership of Eddie Newman, director of Sumter County Public Works, who on June 30, 2021, will retire after fifty‑two years of outstanding public service, the past thirty‑one in his present post; and

Whereas, to be the director of a public works department, one must know everything there is to know about a road system and maintain it amid weather complications, oversee solid waste and sanitation for thousands, and put the community and its citizens first; and

Whereas, in 1990, Sumter County Public Works gained such a director in Eddie Newman, but the department will be losing its most knowledgeable road system guru at the end of June when Eddie Newman retires. He leaves with the longest length of service of any Sumter County employee to his credit; and

Whereas, a lifetime resident of Sumter, Mr. Newman began his career at Sumter County Public Works in 1969 because he had a knack for engineering, road construction, and helping residents in his hometown; and

Whereas, among the challenges he has dealt with over the years is the Sumter County Road System and the two hundred miles of dirt roads that were not properly maintained following adverse weather conditions. County residents who lived on dirt roads saw the most trouble back in the day. Due to flooding, mail carriers could not deliver mail, and children would miss school because the bus couldn’t make it to their homes; and

Whereas, the county does not have this problem today, thanks to the leadership of Eddie Newman, who oversaw the improvement of the county’s roads, including the upgrading of many miles of rural dirt roads to crusher run, which is rock road. Today, Sumter County maintains 343.83 miles of dirt, rock, and paved roads, and approximately 64.46 miles of dirt roads are crusher run; and

Whereas, Sumter County Administrator Gary Mixon salutes Eddie Newman with this praise: “We are going to miss him. His knowledge and experience are unmatched in his field”; and

Whereas, Karen Hyatt, assistant director of Sumter County Public Works, who worked with Mr. Newman for decades, offered this tribute: “He’s been a great mentor to me. He has a good way of connecting with people, whether they’re employees or citizens, and he’s always encouraging his employees to grow and build on their strengths. Under his leadership, the improvement of the road system has been tremendous”; and

Whereas, to thank him for his many years of service to Sumter County Public Works, Sumter City Council recently signed a proclamation in his honor and named Tuesday, June 22, 2021, Marvin Eddie Newman Day; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives is grateful for the legacy of consistent commitment and leadership Eddie Newman has bestowed on the people of South Carolina, most particularly those of Sumter County. The House takes great pleasure in wishing him all the best as he enters retirement, and the members trust he will find much enjoyment in the more leisurely pace of the days ahead. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate and honor Eddie Newman, director of Sumter County Public Works, on the occasion of his retirement, extend deep appreciation for his fifty‑two years of distinguished public service to Sumter County, and offer best wishes for a satisfying and rewarding retirement.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Eddie Newman.

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