**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR JAMES E. “WIZ” WISZOWATY OF BATESBURG‑LEESVILLE, A SEASONED VETERAN OF THE RESTAURANT AND HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT, TO EXPRESS SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR HIS SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO HIS COMMUNITY, AND TO WISH HIM MUCH JOY AND FULFILLMENT IN THE DAYS TO COME.

Whereas, forty‑two years ago, James E. “Wiz” Wiszowaty of Batesburg‑Leesville began a career that would see him the successful owner of several restaurants and a bed‑and‑breakfast inn. In August 2021, he and his wife, Cheryl, decided it was time to retire, to the great regret of the patrons of Wiz’s Eatery, the Wiszowatys’ beloved restaurant of more than thirty years in Batesburg‑Leesville; and

Whereas, born May 20, 1959, in Round Lake, Illinois, Jim came from a large family of three boys and five girls. From an early age, he and his siblings worked at his family’s grocery stores, gaining experience. At the age of seventeen, he joined his brother and mom in opening his first carry‑out pizza place in Delevan, Wisconsin; and

Whereas, Jim married the love of his life, Cheryl, in 1979. In 1982, together they opened CJ Wiz’s in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, and in 1983 they added another location at Beaver Dam, also in Wisconsin; and

Whereas, the Wiszowatys sold these restaurants in 1987 and bought the Shore Club in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, renaming it Buttons Bay Inn. This fine‑dining restaurant was also a bed‑and‑breakfast inn with a bar and marina; and

Whereas, in 1989, Jim and Cheryl sold Buttons Bay Inn, blew into South Carolina with Hurricane Hugo, and settled in the town of Batesburg‑Leesville. There, they opened Wiz’s Pizza in 1990. In 1994, they built what would become the highly successful Wiz’s Eatery; and

Whereas, in addition to serving as a master chef in the kitchen, Jim has made time to give back to his community in many significant ways, including, but definitely not limited to, public service as a Little League baseball commissioner and volunteer fireman and as mayor of Batesburg‑Leesville. He is an exemplary businessman with a drive and deep‑seated persistence that go far beyond what most people experience in their lives. Many people are unaware that the Wiszowatys have quietly worked behind the scenes as dedicated humanitarians, helping people who find themselves in need; and

Whereas, everyone will miss the spectacular culinary talent Jim displayed and the delectable tastes he produced from his kitchens over many decades, as well as his larger‑than‑life personality and generosity. The Wiszowatys’ many friends rejoice, however, to learn that Jim and Cheryl will be enjoying their retirement in Batesburg‑Leesville; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is grateful for Jim Wiszowaty’s rich legacy in the Palmetto State, and the members salute him as he and Cheryl enter a well‑deserved retirement. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, honor James E. “Wiz” Wiszowaty of Batesburg‑Leesville, a seasoned veteran of the restaurant and hospitality industry, on the occasion of his retirement, express sincere appreciation for his significant contributions to his community, and wish him much joy and fulfillment in the days to come.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to James E. “Wiz” Wiszowaty.

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