**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR CATHY CULLER HUGHES OF NORTH FOR A HALF CENTURY OF DEDICATED SERVICE IN THE FIELD OF NEWSPAPER JOURNALISM, FOR TWENTY‑THREE YEARS OF OUTSTANDING WORK AS PUBLISHER OF THE *TIMES AND DEMOCRAT*, AND FOR HER COMMITMENT TO THE ORANGEBURG COMMUNITY.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives has learned that Cathy Culler Hughes of North, former publisher of the *Times and Democrat* in Orangeburg, retired on May 1, 2022, after a seldom‑matched career of fifty years in newspaper journalism; and

Whereas, her retirement from her positions as group publisher with Lee Enterprises and publisher of the *Times and Democrat* (*T&D*) took effect on the same date she became publisher in 1999. She will become publisher emeritus of the newspaper; and

Whereas, Cathy viewed her years at the *Times and Democrat* as not only a career but also a mission, that mission being to help provide the information necessary for a community to make well‑informed decisions and to provide the advertising products for businesses to connect best with their customers; and

Whereas, this lifelong North resident was on the cutting edge of moving her newspaper through transitions in printing and computerization and into full‑service digital. Further, in Cathy’s role as group publisher, she had fifteen of Lee’s seventy‑seven enterprises from thirteen states reporting to her in Orangeburg. These enterprises include the *Morning News* of Florence, which is now printed daily on the *T&D* press; and

Whereas, her focus for the last few years has been in advertising almost exclusively because the *T&D* advertises to the *T&D* region market of Orangeburg, Bamberg, and Calhoun counties, as well as selling advertising to appear anywhere a business wants to reach; and

Whereas, over the course of her career, Cathy Hughes has served as assistant to the publisher, advertising director, and general manager, and she has been one of only five publishers in the newspaper’s history. During her fifty years of service, the *T&D* has never missed producing the newspaper every publication day; and

Whereas, Cathy has been a leader in the newspaper business and community. She served as president of the S.C. Press Association and was charter president of the Orangeburg Rotary Club‑Morning. She has served as board chair for the Orangeburg County Chamber of Commerce, Regional Medical Center Foundation, and Orangeburg‑Calhoun Technical College Foundation; and

Whereas, in recognition of her excellence, in 2017 she received the Order of the Silver Crescent, South Carolina’s highest civilian award for significant contributions, leadership, volunteerism, and lifelong influence within a region or community; and

Whereas, Cathy Hughes has amply demonstrated her commitment to Orangeburg and its people. With much admiration, the House is pleased to join with the citizens of Orangeburg in commending her for her impressive work as publisher of the *Times and Democrat* and in saluting her for five decades of exemplary newspaper journalism. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor Cathy Culler Hughes of North for a half century of dedicated service in the field of newspaper journalism, for twenty‑three years of outstanding work as publisher of the *Times and Democrat*, and for her commitment to the Orangeburg community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Cathy Hughes.

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