**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR ELLEN DRESSLER MORYL, DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON OFFICE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS, UPON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT, TO COMMEND HER FOR HER SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS AND DEDICATION TO THE ARTS IN SOUTH CAROLINA, AND TO OFFER HER EVERY GOOD WISH FOR THE FUTURE.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to acknowledge the lasting impact of Ellen Dressler Moryl of Charleston County on the arts in South Carolina; and

Whereas, since its inception in 1977, Ellen has served with distinction as director of the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs, an entity responsible for providing access to the arts for all citizens and advocating for local artists, performers, and writers, among other things; and

Whereas, in 1979 Ellen founded and directed what have become two premier arts cultural events in Charleston: the MOJA Arts Festival, a ten-day celebration of African-American and Caribbean arts and culture, and the Piccolo Spoleto Festival, a seventeen-day event that complements the international scope of Spoleto Festival USA by showcasing rising artists from the Southeast. And as if she had not contributed enough to the arts in 1979, she also helped found the South Carolina Alliance of Community Arts Agencies that year, and served as its first president; and

Whereas, under her direction, the Office of Cultural Affairs won the 2003 Elizabeth O’Neill Verner Governor’s Award for the Arts in South Carolina, and in 2009, she was selected as a Woman of Distinction in the Arts by the Southeast South Carolina division of the Girl Scouts of America; and

Whereas, in July 2010, the thirty‑fifth anniversary issue of *Charleston* magazine included Mrs. Moryl in its list of thirty‑five visionaries who had shaped the city over the last thirty‑five years; and

Whereas, a frequent chamber music performer and the founder and artistic director of the Ensemble of Saint Clare at Mepkin Abbey, Ellen majored in cello at Portland State University and has played with the Portland Youth Philharmonic, Portland Opera Orchestra, Oregon Symphony Orchestra, and Charleston Symphony Orchestra; and

Whereas, she and her beloved husband, Richard Moryl, a composer and artist, are the proud parents of two music‑loving dogs; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives appreciate the talent and industry of Ellen Dressler Moryl, which has so richly benefitted the arts in the City of Charleston and 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, recognize and honor Ellen Dressler Moryl, Director of the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs, upon the occasion of her retirement, commend her for her significant contributions and dedication to the arts in South Carolina, and offer her every good wish for the future.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Ellen Dressler Moryl.

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