**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE APPRECIATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL FOR MEANINGFUL HUMANITARIAN SERVICE AROUND THE WORLD OVER MANY YEARS, TO RECOGNIZE AND WELCOME THE HONORABLE JOSEPH “JOE” PRESTON OF DEWEY, ARIZONA, PRESIDENT OF LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL, AND TO CONGRATULATE HIM FOR HIS EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL ON THE OCCASION OF HIS VISIT TO THE PALMETTO STATE.

Whereas, headquartered in Oakbrook, Illinois, Lions Clubs International is the world’s largest service organization with almost one and one‑half million members in over forty‑six thousand clubs in more than two hundred countries and geographic areas; and

Whereas, Lions Clubs activities include general community welfare projects, such as building parks, supporting hospitals, establishing youth programs, and sponsoring camps for disabled children; health projects, including aid to the blind, diabetes awareness, and drug abuse and violence prevention through Lions Quest; and worldwide programs that provide disaster relief, long-term assistance to those in need, recycled eyeglasses and hearing aids for distribution in developing countries, the fostering of world peace through the International Peace Poster Contest and international youth exchange, and the promotion and knowledge of the United Nations; and

Whereas, the 2014‑2015 President of Lions Clubs International is the Honorable Joseph “Joe” Preston of Dewey, Arizona, a civic leader and highly recognized fleet sales manager who has selflessly retired temporarily from the automotive industry in order to become a full‑time Lion; and

Whereas, a Lion since 1974, Joe Preston has held Lion offices that include club president, zone chairperson, district governor, council chairperson and chairperson of district leadership development, and Lions Quest for the State of Arizona. He served as host chairperson of the 1994 International Convention in Phoenix, Arizona; chairperson of the 2003 USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum; and a national/multinational coordinator for Campaign SightFirst II; and

Whereas, his numerous awards for service to the Lions include the 100% Club President Award, the 100% District Governor Award, the Senior Builder Key Award, Life Membership in the Lions Clubs, nine International President’s Awards, and the Ambassador of Good Will Award, the highest honor the association bestows on its members, and he is a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow. He was recognized by the United States Drug Enforcement Agency for his work as a Lion to prevent drug use and abuse among youth; and

Whereas, during his term as President, Mr. Preston has and will continue to spend countless hours representing this illustrious organization across the United States and around the world; and on March 28, 2015, he will visit South Carolina to address the delegates at the annual Lions Multi‑District 32 State Convention Banquet to be held in Myrtle Beach; and

Whereas, Joe Preston and his beloved wife, Joni, also a Lion and a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, have three fine children and seven adoring grandsons; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly welcome Joe Preston to our great State and wish him continued success in his term as President of Lions Clubs International. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the General Assembly, by this resolution, express their appreciation to Lions Clubs International for outstanding humanitarian service around the world over many years, recognize and welcome the Honorable Joseph “Joe” Preston of Dewey, Arizona, President of Lions Clubs International, and congratulate him for his exemplary service to Lions Clubs International on the occasion of his visit to the Palmetto State.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Honorable Joseph “Joe” Preston, President of Lions Clubs International.

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