**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN’S CLUBS (GFWC) AND ITS MEMBERS IN THE PALMETTO STATE, GFWC SOUTH CAROLINA (GFWC‑SC), UPON THE OCCASION OF GFWC’S ONE HUNDRED TWENTY‑FIFTH ANNIVERSARY AND TO THANK THIS FINE ORGANIZATION FOR ITS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS GREAT STATE AND NATION.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that on April 24, 2015, the General Federation of Women’s Clubs will celebrate its one hundred twenty‑fifth anniversary; and

Whereas, founded in 1890, the General Federation of Women’s Clubs is an international women’s organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. Its roots can be traced back to 1868 when Jane Cunningham Croly, a professional journalist, attempted to attend a dinner at an all‑male press club honoring British novelist Charles Dickens. Ms. Croly was denied admittance based on her gender, and, in response, formed a women’s club, Sorosis, which grew into multiple groups. On April 24, 1890, sixty‑three Sorosis clubs officially formed the General Federation of Women’s Clubs by ratifying the GFWC constitution. Since that time, GFWC’s impact has been felt throughout communities across the United States and the globe; and

Whereas, by living the volunteer spirit, GFWC clubwomen transform lives each day, not simply with monetary donations but with hands‑on tangible projects that provide immediate impact. With nearly ninety thousand members in affiliated clubs in every state, the District of Columbia, and more than a dozen countries, GFWC members work in their own communities to support the arts, preserve natural resources, advance education, promote healthy lifestyles, encourage civic involvement, and promote world peace and understanding; and

Whereas, GFWC‑SC, founded in June 1898 in Seneca, points with pride to more than 1,400 members in fifty‑eight clubs around South Carolina. Recent GFWC‑SC contributions to the well‑being of the people of this State and beyond include donations to Operation Smile, with South Carolina as the recipient of three national Paula Cutler Awards; donations toward the repair of cleft lip, cleft palate, and other facial deformities for children around the globe; and conservation projects to promote and protect state resources and preserve native plants and animals, as well as implementation of community beautification, litter, waste‑handling, and recycling projects; and

Whereas, in addition, GFWC‑SC has carried out projects and awareness programs on domestic violence and child neglect, built Habitat for Humanity homes for the needy through Women’s Build Project, and contributed to emergency relief efforts following September 11 and recent devastations in Haiti, Japan, and the United States; and

Whereas, the unselfish service and community leadership shown by GFWC through GFWC‑SC long has made a meaningful difference in the lives of so many citizens of the Palmetto State. The House, appreciative of the GFWC’s work at both the national and local level, takes great pleasure in honoring this truly outstanding organization at its one hundred twenty‑fifth anniversary. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate the General Federation of Women’s Clubs (GFWC) and its members in the Palmetto State, GFWC South Carolina (GFWC‑SC), upon the occasion of GFWC’s one hundred twenty‑fifth anniversary and thank this fine organization for its many years of service to the people of this great State and nation.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to GFWC and GFWC‑SC.

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