**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR OUR SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAMS, THE SENIORS THEY SERVE, AND THE VOLUNTEERS WHO CARE FOR THEM AND TO DECLARE MARCH 2017 AS “MARCH FOR MEALS MONTH” IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, President Richard Nixon in March 1972, signed into law a national nutrition program for seniors age sixty years and older. Appropriately, in March 2002, the Meals on Wheels Association of America established the National March for Meals Campaign to celebrate the importance of Older Americans Act senior nutrition programs and to raise awareness about senior hunger in America; and

Whereas, joining the 2017 observance of the March for Meals Campaign offers an especially suitable occasion for supporting senior nutrition programs that deliver vital and critical services through donation, volunteer work, and the raising of awareness about senior hunger; and

Whereas, in the more than four decades that senior nutrition programs have benefitted South Carolina communities, volunteer drivers for Meals on Wheels programs throughout this great State have been the backbone of the program. These dedicated friends deliver not just nutritious meals to homebound seniors and individuals with disabilities but also caring, concern, and attention to their welfare; and

Whereas, these volunteer services help seniors avoid premature or unnecessary institutionalization and provide powerful socialization opportunities for millions of seniors as they combat loneliness and isolation; and

Whereas, exemplifying the fine work of the Palmetto State’s senior nutrition programs, the Lexington County Recreation and Aging Commission Meals on Wheels Program has served its seniors admirably for over forty years, offering services, including delivery of more than 144,000 meals annually in Lexington County, to over twelve hundred older individuals. The General Assembly is grateful for the excellent work of this and all such committed volunteer programs that seek to improve the nutrition of South Carolina’s seniors. Now, therefore,

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

That members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, honor our senior nutrition programs, the seniors they serve, and the volunteers who care for them and declare March 2017 as “March for Meals Month” in South Carolina.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to the Lexington County Recreation and Aging Commission Meals on Wheels Program.

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