**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE JERRY COLEMAN MIZE UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE OCONEE COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS BOARD, TO COMMEND HIM FOR HIS FORTY-ONE YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE TRIBBLE CENTER IN OCONEE COUNTY, AND TO WISH HIM MUCH HAPPINESS AND FULFILLMENT IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to recognize Jerry Coleman Mize upon the occasion of his retirement from the Disabilities and Special Needs Board at The Tribble Center in Oconee County; and

Whereas, Mr. Mize was hired on May 1, 1981 as a Direct Support staff on third shift in residential at $5.25/hour. He had various Direct Support and supervisory positions in residential and the Day Program until he was promoted as the Executive Director in June 1993; and

Whereas, in 1993, Tribble had sixty-three staff members and served less than one hundred clients. In 1996, Mr. Mize oversaw the funding and construction of the Administration Building. Residential services expanded to include thirteen Community Training Homes serving fifty-two clients and three different levels of the Supervised Living Program serving forty-seven clients; and

Whereas, Mr. Mize was responsible for the development of the Supervised Living Program III, which was a pilot program approved by the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs. The program serves as a transition for clients who are ready to move from a Community Training Home to a less restrictive environment; and

Whereas, Mr. Mize oversaw the expansion of the Day Program and Workshop “C” or what is commonly referred to as The Big Workshop. He secured funding to build the Powell Recreation Pond and Complex, a place where clients, their families, and the Oconee County community can fish, picnic, have a barbecue, or just enjoy the view. It was designed to offer complete access to people with disabilities; and

Whereas, as he retires, Mr. Mize still has many goals to accomplish, including working in partnership with the Tribble Foundation to assist those in need by increasing donations; expanding Day and Residential services to address the waiting list; and training to assist those waiting to move into supervisory positions; and

Whereas, Mr. Mize is married to Dale Mize, and together, they have a son, Jeremy; a daughter, Amy; and grandchildren, Lucas and Damien; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate appreciate the passion and dedication that Jerry Coleman Mize has shown in serving the people and the State of South Carolina. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate Jerry Coleman Mize upon the occasion of his retirement as Executive Director of the Oconee County Disabilities and Special Needs Board, commend him for him forty-one years of dedicated service to The Tribble Center in Oconee County, and wish him much happiness and fulfillment in the years ahead.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Jerry Coleman Mize.

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