**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE RICHARD L. PEARCE, LEGAL COUNSEL TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE CLERK, ON RECEIVING THE PRESTIGIOUS LEGISLATIVE STAFF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR 2021, PRESENTED BY THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES’ RESEARCH, EDITORIAL, LEGAL AND COMMITTEE STAFF ASSOCIATION.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are delighted and proud to learn that our own Richard Pearce, Legal Counsel to the South Carolina House Clerk, has won the highly coveted Legislative Staff Achievement Award for 2021, conferred by the Research, Editorial, Legal and Committee Staff Association (RELACS) of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL); and

Whereas, a Legislative Staff Achievement Award is granted to legislative staff who have demonstrated excellence in supporting the work of a state legislature and in strengthening the legislative institution, *excellence* being defined as “top‑quality,” “distinctive,” “of merit,” “outstanding,” “first‑class,” or “expert.” The award carries added meaning in that it is bestowed by the recipient’s peers through each of the staff professional associations of the National Conference of State Legislatures; and

Whereas, a resident of Aiken, Richard Pearce has served for six years as Legal Counsel to the House Clerk. In addition to his duties assisting the House Clerk, Richard works tirelessly with those House members who seek him out to make use of his legal acumen, research and writing skills, and formidable organizational abilities in helping them succeed in their representational functions. In nominating him for this prestigious award, Representative Cal Forrest declared he is adept at creating “word pictures that boil down complex legislative issues in a very comprehensible and useful manner.” His engagement with NCSL has included participating in webinars and other training and, most recently, serving as a guest on NCSL’s Our American States podcast to discuss representative democracy during the American Revolution; and

Whereas, after a decade‑plus in private practice, a decade‑plus in criminal prosecution, and six years in local government administration, Richard discovered that the newly created position of Legal Counsel to the House Clerk would offer him endless opportunities for the pure practice of law. He is adept at practical problem solving and endeavors to help members make a positive impact on the lives of South Carolinians. In performing all of his duties, Richard exercises the qualities of willingness, readiness, and courtesy, virtues that have won for him the respect and affection of those for whom and with whom he works. As he goes about his duties, Richard makes plain that he understands the words *duty* and *loyalty* in their larger context and in their nobler adjuration: to listen quietly, counsel wisely, and keep confidences; and

Whereas, further, this master storyteller has had numerous opportunities to sit with South Carolinians and hear their stories—funny, interesting, poignant, inspirational, and educational—and then take away valuable life lessons that have served him well. The story well told has been a lifelong quest for him, and he has a vast repertoire of great stories his friends relish tapping into, whether over a fascinating lunch outing or a newly acquired bottle of bourbon he so graciously shares; and

Whereas, Richard finds strength for his labors in the loving support of his “happy and hilarious” family: his lovely and talented wife, Cindy, and their daughter, Mel; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives is grateful for the consistent commitment and excellence that makes Richard Pearce an exemplar of the high calling that is public service. Speaking on behalf of his many friends among the members, officers, and employees of the House of Representatives and across agencies in state government, the House takes great pleasure in saluting him on receiving so distinguished an honor as the Legislative Staff Achievement Award. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate Richard L. Pearce, Legal Counsel to the South Carolina House Clerk, on receiving the prestigious Legislative Staff Achievement Award for 2021, presented by the National Conference of State Legislatures’ Research, Editorial, Legal and Committee Staff Association.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Richard L. Pearce.

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