**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO WELCOME LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR MICHAEL D. BANKS TO THE PALMETTO STATE ON THE OCCASION OF THE 97TH ANNUAL SOUTH CAROLINA LIONS MULTIPLE DISTRICT 32 STATE CONVENTION AND TO HONOR THE LIONS CLUBS FOR THEIR MANY YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE.

Whereas, founded in 1917 by Chicago business leader Melvin Jones, Lions Clubs International (LCI) is dedicated to making the world a better place. The largest service organization in the world, LCI, with more than 1.4 million members in more than forty‑eight thousand clubs, has become the world leader in blindness prevention and works extensively in members’ local communities to help those in need. Lions Clubs activities include general community welfare projects, such as building parks, supporting hospitals and libraries, 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 promotion and knowledge of the United Nations; and

Whereas, from April 29 to May 1, 2022, Palmetto State Lions will host the 97th Annual South Carolina Lions Multiple District 32 State Convention in Florence, featuring the Honorable Michael D. Banks, international director of Lions Clubs International, as their special guest; and

Whereas, Mr. Banks, who hails from Stillwater, Oklahoma, was elected to serve as international director of Lions Clubs International at the association’s 102nd International Convention, held in Milan, Italy, July 5 through July 9, 2019. Director Banks has more than forty‑five years of experience in accounting and real estate. A 1975 graduate of Oklahoma State University, he began his career with a national public accounting firm in Oklahoma City. Now semiretired, he is the owner of a local accounting firm and many residential and commercial rental properties; and

Whereas, in 1989, he returned to Stillwater as a single parent to raise his three children. He joined the Stillwater Noon Lions Club in 1990, serving as tail twister, director, vice president, president, and membership director. He also served as district governor (2007‑2008) and as treasurer for several terms at the district and multiple‑district levels; and

Whereas, in recognition of his service, he has received many honors, including several International President’s Awards and International President’s Certificates of Appreciation, and he has been named District Lion of the Year. Additionally, Director Banks is a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, W.P. Woods Fellow, and Finis E. Davis Fellow; and

Whereas, in addition to his Lions activities, he has served his community as a member of the Payne County Sales Tax Oversight Board, treasurer of the Will Rogers Elementary School PTA, treasurer of the Community Aids Network, and member of the Stillwater Chamber of Commerce. Further, he has been recognized as a Rotary Club Paul Harris Fellow and a Kentucky Duke of Paducah; and

Whereas, Mike Banks and his wife, Lion Anne Matoy‑Banks, who is also a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, have been married since 1992. In his leisure time, he enjoys archery, hunting, and tinkering with his Ford Model A collection, while Anne relishes family genealogy and quilting and regularly donates quilts to Quilts of Valor. She also serves as editor for the *Payne County Historical Society Review*. The two have a blended family of seven children and love spending time with their eleven grandchildren; and

Whereas, cognizant of the Lions’ fine record of service for one hundred five years, as well as the distinguished record of their international leadership, the General Assembly takes great pleasure in welcoming to South Carolina Michael D. Banks, international director of Lions Clubs International, on the occasion of the 97th Annual South Carolina Lions Multiple District 32 State Convention. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, welcome Lions Clubs international director Michael D. Banks to the Palmetto State on the occasion of the 97th Annual South Carolina Lions Multiple District 32 State Convention and honor the Lions Clubs for their many years of community service.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Honorable Michael D. Banks, international director of Lions Clubs International, and the South Carolina Lions.

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