**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE AND COMMEND CLAY CATOE OF LANCASTER COUNTY UPON BEING NAMED 2020 SOUTH CAROLINA EMS DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR AND TO THANK HIM FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO LANCASTER COUNTY AND THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, it is with great pleasure that the South Carolina General Assembly recognizes the accomplishments of Clay Catoe of Lancaster County and congratulates him on the great honor of being named 2020 South Carolina EMS Director of the Year; and

Whereas, Mr. Catoe, who received the award at this year’s South Carolina EMS Symposium, held March 10‑13, 2021, at Myrtle Beach, has now earned this recognition for the second time in three years; and

Whereas, as Lancaster County EMS director for nearly nine years, Clay Catoe won the award again for several reasons, the most important being his dedication to community service and the passion he has for the job; and

Whereas, under his leadership, Lancaster County EMS accomplished a great deal last year, despite being knee‑deep in issues with the county’s continuing opioid crisis, exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic. The county EMS received a federal training grant last year and hosted a boot camp for new trainees; and

Whereas, Lancaster County EMS has less than a 2% turnover, which is vastly superior to the national average. According to a 2019 national study by the American Ambulance Association, the average annual turnover rate for EMS across the country is roughly between 20% and 30% a year; and

Whereas, Lancaster County EMS (LCEMS) was founded in 1967 as one of the first non‑funeral home EMS systems in South Carolina. Lancaster County EMS covers 79,000 residents in 540 square miles located just south of Charlotte, North Carolina, and provides advanced life‑support care around the clock, including aggressive care of potential heart attacks, rapid sequence intubation, continuous positive airway pressure, and Code ICE. Lancaster County EMS has won many state and regional awards, including ALS System of the Year, Paramedic and Intermediate EMT of the Year, and Director of the Year. LCEMS, which responds to more than 12,500 calls for service each year, has fielded a team in the South Carolina Paramedic Competition finals nine times; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly, pleased to recognize the significant contributions that Clay Catoe makes each day in the field of emergency medical services, is proud to salute him as 2020 South Carolina EMS Director of the Year. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, congratulate and commend Clay Catoe of Lancaster County upon being named 2020 South Carolina EMS Director of the Year and thank him for his outstanding service to Lancaster County and the State of South Carolina.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Clay Catoe.

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