A **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**,

SC General Assembly,1999-2000 Session

RECOGNIZING MR. H. E. "BOBBY" AVENT OF BENNETTSVILLE ON THE OCCASION OF THE MARLBORO COUNTY AIRPORT BEING NAMED IN HIS HONOR AS THE "H. E. AVENT MARLBORO COUNTY JETPORT" AND EXTENDING THE DEEPEST APPRECIATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO HIM FOR HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO MARLBORO COUNTY AND THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, Mr. Henry E. Avent, known as "Bobby" Avent to his family and many friends, was born on April 1, 1917, in Jonesboro, North Carolina and moved to Bennettsville with his parents in 1922 at the age of four; and

Whereas, in 1948, he married the former Nancy Slade, a native of Lexington, Kentucky, and they are the proud parents of three devoted sons, Henry E. "Hank" Avent, Jr., Mark Slade Avent, and Barry Goodrich Avent, and the adoring grandparents of eight grandchildren; and

Whereas, Mr. Avent graduated from Bennettsville High School in 1935, and attended Clemson University from 1935 through 1940, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Architecture; and

Whereas, upon completion of his studies at Clemson, Mr. Avent joined the United States Army where he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and served his country with great honor and distinction as a pilot and a Flying Tiger in the 14th Air Force during World War II; and

Whereas, upon returning home from the Korean Conflict in 1953, Mr. Avent purchased the Pepsi Cola/Dr. Pepper Bottling Company of Bennettsville from his father, a business which continues to thrive under the innovation and leadership of the Avent family; and

Whereas, although he retired as a Lieutenant Colonel for the United States Army in 1977, he continues to serve as a lifetime member of the Flying Tigers of the 14th Air Force Association, Inc.; and

Whereas, he has served his beloved community of Marlboro County and Bennettsville in many and various ways including service as President of the Marlboro County Chamber of Commerce from 1964-1966 and as President of the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce from 1964-1966, and service to the Bennettsville Rotary Club including becoming a Paul Harris Fellow; and

Whereas, he has continued to be a staunch supporter of Clemson University by remaining an active member of the Clemson University Alumni Association, receiving the Clemson University Order of the Silver Tigers Award on five separate occasions and receiving the Fellowship Award in 1980; and

Whereas, Mr. Avent is a devoted member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Bennettsville, and received the Vestry Emeritus Award in 1997; and served on the Board of Directors of the Kanuga Conference of the Episcopal Church in 1989; and

Whereas, Mr. Avent, an architect by profession, still remains active in the leadership of Pepsi Cola Bottling Company of Bennettsville, along with two of his sons, serving as Chairman of the Board, and he also continues to serve as Chairman of the Board for Stingray Boat Co. PFC, Inc. of Hartsville, South Carolina, as well as being retired from service as Chairman of the Board of Carolina Canners, Inc., of Cheraw, South Carolina; and

Whereas, Mr. Avent was initially appointed to the Marlboro County Airport Commission in 1967, and has spent many years promoting aviation in Marlboro County with his constant and tireless support of the Marlboro County Airport Commission; and

Whereas, Mr. Avent was very instrumental and took an active role in initiating and pursuing a recent renovation project at the Marlboro County Airport; and

Whereas, the Marlboro County Council saw fit to recognize Mr. Avent's lifetime of dedication and service to aviation by recently renaming the airport which will hereafter be known as the H. E. Avent Marlboro County Jetport; and

Whereas, a crowd of over two thousand people attended a very successful Air Fest on May 22, 1999, at the H. E. Avent Marlboro County Jetport, an event which was coordinated by Mr. Avent's son, Barry G. Avent, and which included a dedication ceremony formally renaming the airport after H. E. "Bobby" Avent with special remarks honoring Mr. Avent being made by United States Congressman John Spratt, South Carolina Senator Dick Elliott, and South Carolina Representative Douglas Jennings, Jr., as well as Marlboro County Council Chairman O'Neal Hamilton; and

Whereas, it is with pleasure that the members of the General Assembly recognize this very distinguished and dedicated community leader, Mr. H. E. "Bobby" Avent, who has given freely and willingly of his time and many talents to numerous civic and community needs in Bennettsville, Marlboro County, and the State of South Carolina. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina, by this resolution, recognize Mr. H. E. "Bobby" Avent of Bennettsville on the occasion of the Marlboro County Airport being named in his honor as the "H. E. Avent Marlboro County Jetport" and extending the deepest appreciation of the members of the South Carolina General Assembly to him for his many contributions to Marlboro County and the State of South Carolina.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mr. H. E. "Bobby" Avent.

Name: Henry Elbert Avent

Date of Birth: April 1, 1917

Place of Birth: Sanford, NC

Gender: Male

Race: Unspecified

Home State: SC

War or Conflict: World War II, 1939-1946

Status: Veteran

Dates of Service: 1941-1946

Branch of Service: Army Air Forces/Corps

Unit of Service: 14th Air Force, Flying Tigers

Highest Rank: Major

Awards: Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal, additional awards

Prisoner of War: Unknown

Service Related Injury:

Unknown

War or Conflict: Korean War, 1950-1955

Status: Veteran

Dates of Service: 1951-1953

Branch of Service: Air Force

Unit of Service: Public Works Program, Atlantic Missile Range and Development Command

Highest Rank: Lieutenant Colonel

Prisoner of War: Unknown

Service Related Injury: Unknown

Service History Note: Veteran served in the Air Force Reserves and retired in the 1980s.