

RESOLUTION

COMMENDATION OF DR. AND MRS. STEVEN H. STOKES FOR VISIONARY LEADERSHIP

WHEREAS, Dr. and Mrs. Steven H. Stokes have served the University of South Alabama with exemplary zeal for more than three decades, distinguishing themselves among its most loyal and generous alumni, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Stokes has advocated for and guided the advancement of the University as a member and as Chair *Pro Tempore* of the Board of Trustees during a tenure that has spanned appointments by two governors and coincided with a period of unparalleled expansion, and

WHEREAS, Dr. and Mrs. Stokes have promoted the progress of the University of South Alabama with generous gifts to establish the *Angelia and Steven H. Stokes Center for Creative Writing* and to support Moulton Tower and Alumni Plaza, the Mitchell Cancer Institute and the College of Medicine, creating a nearly \$2.7 million impact through their gifts and matching funds, and

WHEREAS, the exemplary devotion of Dr. and Mrs. Stokes to the advancement of their alma mater has inspired the USA National Alumni Association to recognize Dr. Stokes with a Distinguished Alumni Award, and the Board of Trustees to commend his service as chair by conferring the honorary title of *Chair Pro Tempore Emeritus*, and to name a state-of-the-art student residence the *Angelia and Steven H. Stokes Residence Hall* in honor of their lifelong records of service, and

WHEREAS, Dr. and Mrs. Stokes continue to encourage the highest aspirations of the University of South Alabama by providing visionary leadership and a gift of \$250,000 to enable the formation of a Center for Environmental Resiliency, and

WHEREAS, the Center for Environmental Resiliency will be a unique resource on the Gulf Coast, that will provide a broad interdisciplinary approach to develop solutions for pressing environmental concerns and to promote resilient and sustainable coastal communities and ecosystems, and

WHEREAS, the Center for Environmental Resiliency will provide a platform that will enhance the University's international visibility, promote scholarly achievement and the renown of USA's academic programs, and attract extramural funding, and

WHEREAS, the Center for Environmental Resiliency will be a source of knowledge to guide responsible policy-making and business development that will accrue toward a prosperous and healthy future for all residents of the Gulf Coast region,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the University of South Alabama Board of Trustees gratefully recognizes the dedicated generosity and visionary guidance of Dr. and Mrs. Steven H. Stokes, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees extends its warmest thanks with those of the President, faculty, staff, and students for the leadership and generosity of Dr. and Mrs. Stokes in supporting the establishment of a resource that promises to elevate the University of South Alabama and the entire Gulf Coast region.