

RESOLUTION

COMMENDATION OF DR. J. DAVID STEARNS

WHEREAS, the University of South Alabama seeks to honor exceptional administrators and faculty who have devoted a substantial part of their careers to serving and teaching others, and who have distinguished themselves throughout their professional careers, and

WHEREAS, Dr. J. David Stearns has devoted himself to more than three decades of outstanding service to the University of South Alabama through the Division of Enrollment Services, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Stearns joined the USA family in 1979 as Director of Admissions and Records, later serving the University as Associate Dean of Students, Dean of Enrollment Services, and Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Services, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Stearns also served as Associate Vice President for Enrollment Services from 1997 until his retirement in February 2013, and

WHEREAS, during Dr. Stearns' tenure, enrollment at the University has doubled, from 7,400 in 1979 to some 15,000 in the fall of 2012, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Stearns played a key role in the establishment of USA programs including the Honors Program, the Medical School Early Acceptance Program, the Accelerated College Enrollment Program, the First Year Experience Program, the Doctor of Pharmacy Program with Auburn University, and the Recruitment and Retention Program, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Stearns has been a tireless advocate for USA's students and has championed the current scholarship program, which is among the most substantial in the state, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Stearns and his wife, Lee, have gone beyond the scope of the job by coordinating the Miss USA pageant, being enthusiastic fans and financial contributors to USA athletics, and entertaining USA alumni and constituents in their home, among many other contributions, and

WHEREAS, the University has named the Admissions Office lobby in Dr. Stearns' honor, a recognition made possible through a gift from philanthropists Bert and Fanny Meisler, for whom the student services building is named, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Stearns, a recipient of the USA National Alumni Association Distinguished Service Award, represents dreams realized, challenges overcome, doors opened, opportunities provided, and unconditional support readily offered, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Stearns has been the "face" of the University of South Alabama for more than 30 years, proving himself to be a valued advisor, mentor and friend to many generations of students and colleagues at USA,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees expresses its sincere appreciation to Dr. J. David Stearns and his wife, Lee, for their many outstanding contributions to the University of South Alabama and offers its best wishes upon Dr. Stearns' retirement and future endeavors.