



Proclamation

*On a motion from Greenville County Councilors Joe Dill, Mike Barnes,
Willis Meadows and Dan Tripp wish to honor and acknowledge*

Tommy Stevenson

Whereas, Tommy's Ham House has been a landmark in Greenville County for over 35 years; having originally opened its doors on Buncombe Street in 1985 before moving to its current location on Rutherford Street in 1997; and

Whereas, Tommy Stevenson, at the age of 80, has decided to hang up his apron, lay down his spatula and retire after a tremendously successful career in service to his community; and

Whereas, six days a week, for the last 36 years, Tommy would arrive at work by 4:00 am to start the coffee and begin preparing the day's fresh, from-scratch ingredients; creating some of the best traditional country cookin' you will find, in an open, warm, friendly, vinyl tablecloth clad, family-style restaurant in the South; and

Whereas, dating as far back as the late 1980's, political candidates have used Tommy's Ham House as a must-stop on their campaign trail; meeting with their constituents, shaking hands and kissing babies; and

Whereas, many of the local and national politicians who have used this small-town restaurant to seek support for the "First in the South Primary" are pictorially displayed on Tommy's "Wall of Fame" - candidates such as Jim DeMint, Mark Sanford, Bob Inglis, Newt Gingrich, George H. and George W. Bush, Rick Perry, John McCain, Mike Huckabee, and most recently, former President Donald Trump; and

Whereas, among his faithful regulars, which make up the majority of his customers, Tommy, a 1965 Paladin alum, feeds (for free) the players of the Furman football team on the nights before their home games; and

Whereas, in 2018, Tommy Stevenson was presented with the most distinguished award by Governor Henry McMaster, the Order of the Palmetto; the state's highest civilian honor; and

Whereas, not only is Tommy's Ham House a local favorite, it also has a following online through 'Trip Advisor' where it receives a 4.5 out of 5.0 star rating; with many flattering reviews such as...

"This is a great southern good breakfast restaurant. The service is warm and friendly and the owner a hospitable gentleman.... My wife and I are in Greenville for 4 days and we are going to have breakfast at Tommy's each morning. Excellent!"...

...and this one, "Took a long weekend to Greenville and for breakfast, Tommy's was recommended to us by the hotel team we were staying at. Simple, awesome, home cooked food with amazing service. Tommy, the man himself, stopped at our table to ensure all was good with our breakfast and was just as happy to speak with us as we him. You've got to try Tommy's and as the shirts say, you will Love Tommy."

Now therefore be it proclaimed, that Greenville County Council does hereby recognize the contribution Tommy Stevenson has made to his community, to his family, to his employees and to his patrons through his years of dedicated, hands-on service and to show him our deepest appreciation by proclaiming today as

Tommy Stevenson Day in Greenville County.

Given this 6th day of April 2021.

Willis Meadows, Chairman
Greenville County Council

