**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES MATTHEW HAMMOND, OF ANDREWS IN GEORGETOWN COUNTY, THE DIRECTOR, MEDICAL DIRECTORATE, JOINT SERVICES DETACHMENT OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA MILITARY DEPARTMENT, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT, TO COMMEND HIM FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED MILITARY SERVICE AND TO WISH HIM MUCH HAPPINESS AND FULFILLMENT IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, few things afford keener pleasure to the South Carolina Senate than recognizing the selfless labors of this great State’s dedicated public servants; and

Whereas, Brigadier General James Matthew Hammond, of Andrews in Georgetown County, the retiring director, Medical Directorate, Joint Services Detachment of the South Carolina Military Department, ranks high in their distinguished company as a long-respected minister, teacher, counselor, and military leader; and

Whereas, as a youth James, a native of Kenansville, North Carolina, moved to neighboring South Carolina and graduated from Andrews High School. In preparation for his life’s work, he earned a bachelor’s degree in biology and chemistry at Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama, followed by a master’s degree in education at South Carolina State University. After earning a second master’s degree, this time in psychology, at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., he next set his sights on a doctorate in administration, completing this degree at Southern Illinois University. Postdoctoral work in psychology, religion, theology, and counseling at various institutions, along with military training, completed his education; and

Whereas, he spent more than twenty-four years in the United States Air Force Auxiliary (Civil Air Patrol) and more than twelve years with the Maryland Defense Force, and he has served with the South Carolina State Guard, Joint Services Detachment of the South Carolina Military Department for the past five years, during which time he has been director of the Medical Directorate of the detachment for about a year; and

Whereas, in a civilian capacity, Dr. Hammond has served as a chaplain with the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and as an adjunct professor of psychology/professor emeritus at Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Maryland; and

Whereas, for his military accomplishments, he holds many decorations and awards, among them the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary’s Grover Loening Aerospace award, Meritorious Service award, and Silver Star for Leadership award ribbon; the Maryland Defense Force’s Maryland Distinguished Service Cross; and the South Carolina Military Department’s State Service ribbon; and

Whereas, civilian awards have included Veterans Affairs Administration Chaplain of the Year, Who’s Who in Washington, and Men of Achievement (Cambridge, England); and

Whereas, having earned his retirement after a career filled with extraordinary accomplishments that would take many men two lifetimes to achieve, he well deserves the encomium this Senate now extends to him. The members wish Dr. Hammond and his wife, Carol, many years of enjoyment to come, and, with his colleagues, will long remember him with grateful thanks. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate Andrews’ Brigadier General James Matthew Hammond, director, Medical Directorate, Joint Services Detachment of the South Carolina Military Department, upon the occasion of his retirement, commend him for his many years of dedicated service to the armed forces of both his state and his country, and wish him much happiness and fulfillment in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Hammond.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑