**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 1‑1‑715 SO AS TO DESIGNATE THE HONOR AND REMEMBER FLAG AS THE OFFICIAL STATE EMBLEM OF THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE BY THOSE IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

Whereas, while war deaths have been a part of our heritage since the birth of this nation, the United States has not instituted an official symbol commemorating fallen servicemembers; and

Whereas, House Resolution Number 546 of the 112th Congress designates the Honor and Remember Flag, created by Honor and Remember, Inc., to officially recognize and honor fallen members of the United States Armed Forces; and

Whereas, the Honor and Remember Flag’s red field represents the brave men and women who sacrificed their lives for freedom. The flag’s blue star is a symbol of active service in military conflict that dates back to World War I, and the flag’s white border recognizes the purity of sacrifice. The flag’s gold star signifies the ultimate sacrifice of a warrior in active service who is not returning home and reflects the value of the life given. The folded flag element highlights this nation’s final tribute to a fallen serviceperson and a family’s sacrifice. The flag’s flame symbolizes the eternal spirit of the departed; and

Whereas, the Honor and Remember Flag is a unifying symbol recognizing this nation’s solemn debt to the estimated 1.6 million fallen servicemembers throughout history and the families and communities who mourn their loss. Now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Article 9, Chapter 1, Title 1 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 1‑1‑715. The Honor and Remember Flag is designated as the official State Emblem of Service and Sacrifice by those in United States Armed Forces who have given their lives in the line of duty.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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