**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR AND CONGRATULATE THE IRMO HIGH SCHOOL AIR FORCE JUNIOR ROTC ON THE OCCASION OF ITS FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the Air Force Junior ROTC (AF JROTC) of Irmo High School is celebrating its fortieth anniversary this year; and

Whereas, established in 1972 as unit SC‑071, the Irmo High School AF JROTC constantly strives toward meeting its several worthy objectives, which are to educate and train high school cadets in citizenship; promote community service; instill responsibility, character, and self‑discipline; and provide instruction in air and space fundamentals; and

Whereas, the AF JROTC program is grounded in the Air Force core values of integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do. The curriculum emphasizes Air Force heritage and traditions, the development of flight, applied flight sciences, military aerospace policies, and space exploration; and

Whereas, the unit currently has approximately one hundred fifty students enrolled and is supported by a booster club composed of parents, relatives, and other friends. Operating as a separate entity, the booster club helps support official AF JROTC events and conducts events to help raise funds to assist the AF JROTC in meeting its objectives; and

Whereas, from the year of its inception, hundreds of students have participated in Irmo’s AF JROTC program, which is open to any Irmo High School student in grades 9‑12. As a result of their participation in the school’s AF JROTC program, many Irmo graduates are currently serving in active‑duty military positions around the world; and

Whereas, since 2006 under the command of senior aerospace science instructor Colonel Jay E. Seward II, USAF (Retired), SC‑071 has earned for three of the past four years the Air Force Association Sword of Excellence, an award that confers on its winner the title of best AF JROTC unit in the State of South Carolina. As Colonel Seward attests, this well‑earned distinction could not have been attained without the able assistance of aerospace science instructor Chief Master Sergeant Steven E. Turner, USAF (Retired), and Major Duan K. Sinclair, Jr., USMC (Retired), the unit’s volunteer drill‑team coach; and

Whereas, SC‑071 also has been recognized as a distinguished JROTC unit each of the past twenty‑six years; and

Whereas, grateful for the Irmo High School AF JROTC’s fine work, the House of Representatives takes great pleasure in saluting SC‑071 on its fortieth anniversary, and the members extend best wishes for success in all the unit’s future endeavors. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, honor and congratulate the Irmo High School Air Force Junior ROTC on the occasion of its fortieth anniversary.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Irmo High School Air Force Junior ROTC.

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