**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE WORK OF THE VETERANS CAFÉ AND GRILLE IN HORRY COUNTY AND TO COMMEND THE OUTSTANDING SERVICE THAT LOU “MASH” MASCHERINO AND RHONDA MASCHERINO PROVIDE TO ASSIST VETERANS IN THE PALMETTO STATE AND TO PROMOTE THE HISTORY OF OUR MILITARY.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly are pleased to honor citizens who make significant contributions in paying respect to those who serve to defend the freedoms we richly enjoy in our nation; and

Whereas, on Veterans Day 2009, Mash and Rhonda Mascherino opened the Veterans Café and Grille, a “mom and pop” restaurant, on Shine Avenue on the former Myrtle Beach Air Force Base across from the Ralph Johnson Veterans Administration Medical Clinic; and

Whereas, the Mascherinos advertised on the back of the original menu for patrons to bring in pictures of military family members to post on a display, “The Walls of Heroes,” along with any military memorabilia that the customers wanted to share; and

Whereas, the pictures began to pour in, including ones of fighter planes and warships; then uniforms and other memorabilia were donated, until the establishment became dubbed the Mini Military Museum; and

Whereas, three and a half years later, the building in which the restaurant was operating was sold, and the Veterans Café and Grille had only sixty days to relocate; and

Whereas, with a lot of help from friends and customers, the Veterans Café and Grille, which had become a place where veterans could find the support and services they needed, reopened on Northgate Drive; and

Whereas, in its new location, it continues to provide an atmosphere conducive to war stories and history in abundance, where veterans and their friends can enjoy good food and relaxation; and

Whereas, every year, the Veterans Café and Grille raises money to benefit several nonprofit organizations in the Grand Strand, such as Veterans Welcome Home and Resource Center, Honor Flight of Myrtle Beach, Scents for Soldiers, Grand Strand Down Syndrome Society, Wreaths Across America, and Blue Star Mothers; and

Whereas, the funds raised in 2012 totaled $5,595, in 2013 $10,026, and thus far in 2014 $9,475 through the generous help of the veterans and their friends who frequent the restaurant; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly appreciates the significant contributions that Mash and Rhonda Mascherino have made to the Grand Strand through the Veterans Café and Grille and Mini Military Museum in order to honor those who serve. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, recognize and honor the work of the Veterans Café and Grille in Horry County and commend the outstanding service that Lou “Mash” Mascherino and Rhonda Mascherino provide to assist veterans in the Palmetto State and to promote the history of our military.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mash and Rhonda Mascherino.

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