**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE OUTSTANDING SERVICE THAT THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA PROVIDES TO THE LIVES OF YOUNG MEN AND BOYS ACROSS AMERICA AND THE NOTEWORTHY IMPACT THAT BOY SCOUTS MAKE IN EVERY COMMUNITY OF OUR STATE.

Whereas, in the early 1900s throughout the British Empire, the Scout Movement began to form troops as a result of reading Lord Robert Baden‑Powell’s “Aids to Scouting,” written to train soldiers; and

Whereas, in 1910, at the age of fifty‑three, Lord Baden‑Powell retired from a highly successful career as a scout in the British army to give his attention to this work; and

Whereas, as an outgrowth of the Scout Movement in England and with the endorsement of the Chief Scout of the World, Lord Baden‑Powell, the Boy Scouts of America was formed in 1910, and for a century it has shaped future leaders of America by combining educational activities with lifelong values and fun; and

Whereas, incorporated on February 8, 1910, and recognized by federal charter on June 15, 1916, the Boy Scouts of America provides a program for boys and young men intended to build strong moral character, train in the responsibilities of participatory citizenship, and develop personal fitness; and

Whereas, the Boy Scouts of America is now the largest youth service organization in the United States, with nearly three million members participating in a wide range of outdoor activities and educational and career‑oriented programs in partnership with community organizations. The service projects accomplished by these Scouts and their leaders benefit untold numbers of individuals and communities, both locally and farther afield; and

Whereas, the Boy Scouts of America teaches steadfast commitment to God, country, community, and family, as well as personal honor, respect for the beliefs of others, volunteerism, and interdependence with the environment, all of which are principles that develop character, citizenship, and health; and

Whereas, since 1910, more than one hundred eleven million young men and boys have experienced the principles of acceptance of people from every ethnic, religious, and economic background, including those with disabilities and special needs, by participating in scouting programs across the nation; and

Whereas, every Boy Scout volunteers twelve hours of community service each year, totaling thirty million hours of community service annually; and

Whereas, communities across the United States benefit, not only from the volunteer hours of Boy Scouts, but also from the selfless service of more than one million adult volunteer leaders through troops and packs chartered by the Boy Scouts of America; and

Whereas, the Boy Scouts of America has always affirmed faith in God as fundamental to its purpose and mission, and the Supreme Court has ruled that the Boy Scouts of America is a private, voluntary, non‑business organization with the right to set its own standards for membership and leadership; and

Whereas, cognizant of the invaluable contributions and the legacy of achievement in the Boy Scouts of America, the South Carolina Senate takes great pride in acknowledging the benefits of this renown organization to the Palmetto State. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and honor the outstanding service that the Boy Scouts of America provides to the lives of young men and boys across America and the noteworthy impact that Boy Scouts make in every community of our State.

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