**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE GREATER COLUMBIA MARINE FOUNDATION FOR ITS OUTSTANDING CHARITABLE WORK AND TO CONGRATULATE THE VOLUNTEER MARINE MEMBERS UPON THE OCCASION OF THE 20TH UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS ULTIMATE CHALLENGE MUD RUN.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly are pleased to learn that the Greater Columbia Marine Foundation (GCMF) will celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) Ultimate Challenge Mud Run in the Midlands on October 12, 2013; and

Whereas, the GCMF was founded in 1993 in order to unify Marine Corps organizations in South Carolina, including the Marine Reservists of Columbia, the Marine regional recruiting station, the University of South Carolina Naval/Marine training program, the South Carolina Marine Corps League groups, the Montford Point Marines in South Carolina, and any other Marine Corps affiliations within the State; and

Whereas, in the early days of the GCMF, a USMC Ultimate Challenge Mud Run, modeled after other USMC Mud Runs around the country, was established to provide assistance for Marine families, to support local Marine functions, and to encourage young Marines in the area; and

Whereas, the Mud Run, an obstacle course more than four miles long and 5k and 10k officially measured courses for serious runners were laid out and constructed by Marines and improved over the years at the I and I Marine Reserve unit on Fort Jackson. Since 2009, the event has taken place on a newly engineered 6.2‑mile course with thirty‑six obstacles in Sandy Run; and

Whereas, with only fifty runners in 1993, the Ultimate Challenge Run gradually grew with strong support from high school Junior ROTC teams in South Carolina competing against one another, followed by police and fire teams, radio and TV teams, and corporate teams; and

Whereas, the proceeds from the Mud Run support Marine Corps work and other military group work, such as the Wounded Warrior Program, Blue Star Mothers of South Carolina, Hidden Wounds, University of South Carolina and Clemson scholarships, South Carolina National Guard family support, veteran needs, the annual Marine Corps Birthday Ball, and other military projects as approved by the GCMF board; and

Whereas, since 2008, it has been the second largest outdoor event in South Carolina and the largest event of its kind in the Southeast with people traveling from outside the region to participate. By 2010, the Mud Run, a completely volunteer‑run effort, had become the largest Mud Run in North America, and seven thousand participants are expected to attend the October 2013 run; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly are grateful for the outstanding efforts of the Greater Columbia Marine Foundation for sponsoring twenty years of the widely popular and successful Marine Corps Ultimate Challenge Mud Run in the Midlands. Now, therefore,

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

That the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, recognizes and honors the Greater Columbia Marine Foundation for its outstanding charitable work and congratulates the volunteer Marine members upon the occasion of the 20th United States Marine Corps Ultimate Challenge Mud Run.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Charles Paxton, President of the Greater Columbia Marine Foundation.

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