**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE SIGNIFICANT WORK OF THE BIG RED BARN RETREAT IN RICHLAND COUNTY AS A SOURCE OF PROVIDING PEACE FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING AND TO COMMEND THE RETREAT’S MIDLANDS GIVES DAY.

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly is pleased to learn that the Big Red Barn Retreat in Blythewood will host a fundraising event to benefit the organization’s significant work on Tuesday, May 3, 2016; and

Whereas, an eleemosynary public charity dedicated to providing healing to those in need of peace, the Big Red Barn (BRB) Retreat was founded in 2014 by Barbara Irons in memory of her beloved husband, Leon Irons, a veteran of the United States Navy; and

Whereas, the facility is located in Blythewood on seventy‑five acres of lush pastures and dense forest with nearly five miles of wooded trails, a two‑acre fishing pond, an outdoor pavilion, a large sand arena with viewing area, 1,110‑square‑foot meeting room with prep area, and a big red barn with a lodge‑like meeting room; and

Whereas, dedicated to providing non‑clinical therapeutic services in a natural, relaxed setting, the BRB Retreat serves active‑duty and retired service members, veterans, and their immediate family members who are suffering from military‑ or combat‑related stress issues; and

Whereas, the main therapeutic services offered at the BRB Retreat include therapeutic yoga, equine‑assisted psychotherapy, and healing art workshops; and

Whereas, the Midlands Gives Day will seek to raise fifteen thousand dollars and will take place at the BRB Retreat where breakfast will be served in the barn’s lounge followed by a walking tour of the property with the retreat’s director, Sutton Shaw; and

Whereas, participants will be given the opportunity to enjoy a free yoga class with the retreat’s yoga teacher and to watch a dressage horseback riding demonstration given by United States Dressage Federation gold medalist Dawn Jensen; and

Whereas, during a luncheon cookout provided by Sonic Drive‑In, visitors will be able to meet the horse therapists at BRB Retreat, and all day long they will be asked to express their joy of life by painting their own artwork on the giant canvas displayed in the barn; and

Whereas, a siesta will be provided later in the day for active‑duty and retired service members wishing to experience going to sleep with the assistance of a guided meditation of yoga nidra; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly values the meaningful work of the BRB Retreat to assist active‑duty service members and veterans, along with their families, who suffer from the effects of military‑related stress, and the members wish them great success on the retreat’s Midlands Gives Day. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the General Assembly, by this resolution, recognize and honor the significant work of the Big Red Barn Retreat in Richland County as a source of providing peace for those in need of healing and commend the Retreat’s Midlands Gives Day.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Barbara Irons.

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