**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR TARTAN DAY SOUTH UPON THE OCCASION OF ITS JOINING IN THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL TARTAN DAY.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to recognize Tartan Day South as the organization joins in the twentieth anniversary celebration of the National Tartan Day holiday in Washington, DC in April 2018; and

Whereas, Tartan Day South will participate in the National Capital Tartan Day, organized by the National Capital Tartan Day Committee, by taking part in panels and speeches that focus on a range of subjects, including Tartan Day Going Forward: Keeping It Real, The Role of Tartan in Forging a Scottish National Identity, Scotland After Brexit, and Scots Heraldry. A number of prestigious guests and speakers from Scotland and around the United States will be in attendance; and

Whereas, in South Carolina, the annual Tartan Day South celebration is a four-day event honoring Celtic heritage. The festival includes an array of different events at many different venues, featuring unique sports, incredible music, great foods, and interactive exhibitions. The event is one of a kind in the Midlands; and

Whereas, Tartan Day South celebrated its seventh year in April 2017 and has seen phenomenal growth since its inception, with nearly 60,000 patrons attending the events since 2011. In 2017, total attendance grew to 10,661. Over 1,300 of these visitors were from 196 different zip codes and twenty-five states outside of South Carolina. Another 2,340 South Carolina visitors were from 73 different zip codes in South Carolina that are located more than fifty miles outside of Lexington; and

Whereas, the economic impact for the festival is far reaching, from restaurants and pubs to hotels and gas stations. Conservative figures of its economic impact estimate that the festival provides over $1.34 million dollars on the main event day alone. One nearby local business states that Tartan Day South has been its busiest day of the year for the last four years; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are grateful to Tartan Day South for hosting this annual celebration of Scottish and Irish Americans and their culture. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and honor Tartan Day South upon the occasion of its joining in the twentieth anniversary celebration of the National Capital Tartan Day.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to John Banks and Tartan Day South.

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