**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE JOHN A. MEANS ON CELEBRATING HIS NINETY‑NINTH BIRTHDAY AND TO WISH HIM MUCH HAPPINESS IN THE DAYS AND YEARS AHEAD.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are delighted to learn that John A. Means celebrated his ninety‑ninth birthday on December 11, 2017; and

Whereas, born on a farm in McLouth, Kansas, on December 11, 1918, in the early part of the twentieth century, he has witnessed many remarkable social changes, technological advancements, and international developments that have transformed the world since that time into the second decade of the twenty‑first century; and

Whereas, in admirable patriotic tradition, John Means enlisted in the United States Army Air Corp in 1942, and became a pilot in 1943. He was stationed in Texas until 1946, where he was an instructor in Advanced Flying School and a squadron commander overseeing some two thousand basic trainees; and

Whereas, on October 3, 1944, he married his beloved wife, the late Wilma June Ashworth Means, and together they reared three fine children: the late John Steven Means, Jo Ellen Means Weathers, and Donna Means Fox; and

Whereas, in 1950, John Means was recalled to active duty and was deployed to Korea as part of the 6147th Squadron known as the Mosquitoes. After the birth of his first daughter, while stationed in Korea, he named his plane Little Jo Ellen after her; and

Whereas, he later served in Mobile, Alabama, with Air Vac, and in Hawaii with the Air Rescue Squadron. While in Hawaii, he was deployed to Lima, Peru, and was prepared to rescue Alan Shepard in the Freedom 7 capsule if it had landed in the vicinity; and

Whereas, John Means served in Washington, D.C., with the Special Air Missions (SAM) unit, flying dignitaries at home and abroad in Air Force Two, including Herbert Hoover as past president to and from New York and Washington, D.C., and again while stationed in Charleston, to his final resting place in Waterloo, Iowa. He also flew Richard Nixon as vice president and another notable, Charles Lindberg; and

Whereas, during Vietnam, he flew cargo transports, dropping of soldiers, supplies, and mail, and while stationed in Charleston, he flew C130s all over the world. He retired from the military in 1965, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel; and

Whereas, after returning to civilian life, John Means worked as a mechanical engineer at Avco and as a machine operator at Bosch. He also owned his own gas station and sold small‑engine airplanes; and

Whereas, he has served his community as a member of the Masons for over seventy‑five years, as a member of Scottish Rite and Shriners, and as president of the Lions Club. He served on the board of directors of Charleston Mental Health and has been an active booster of the Summerville High School Marching Band; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to honor this son of South Carolina upon marking his ninety‑ninth birthday, and the members join with his family and friends in congratulating him on reaching this extraordinary milestone. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate John A. Means on celebrating his ninety‑ninth birthday and wish him much happiness in the days and years ahead.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to John A. Means.

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