**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE COLONEL BEVERLY “BEN” SKARDON OF CLEMSON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS ONE HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY AND TO WISH HIM A JOYOUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND MUCH HAPPINESS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are delighted to learn that Colonel Beverly “Ben” Skardon will celebrate his one hundredth birthday on July 14, 2017; and

Whereas, born in Louisiana, Ben and his family moved to South Carolina when he was eight. His father, an Episcopal minister, impressed upon his children the virtues of honor and sacrifice; and

Whereas, after graduating from Clemson College, now Clemson University, he was called to active duty in 1939, fulfilling a childhood dream of serving in the Army and was stationed in the Philippines; and

Whereas, Skardon was captured by the Japanese in 1942 and was subjected to marching mile after agonizing mile on the infamous Bataan Death March, suffering treatment that left him in a continuous state of terror; and

Whereas, surviving as a prisoner of war served to mold and shape his character, never giving up through the many hardships he faced; and

Whereas, after being freed in 1945, Skardon returned to his alma mater and began teaching English courses, with his love of literature and life serving as an inspiration to everyone who entered into his classroom; and

Whereas, in honor of those who did not make it home, Ben has participated in his tenth Bataan Memorial Death March surrounded by “Ben’s Brigade”, a march through the New Mexico desert, as the only survivor of the real Bataan Death March, a tradition he plans to continue; and

Whereas, grateful for his service to his country and his impact as an educator, the Senate is proud to honor Ben at the celebration of his one hundredth birthday and congratulate him on reaching this important life milestone. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate Colonel Beverly “Ben” Skardon on the occasion of his one hundredth birthday and wish him a joyous birthday celebration and much happiness.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Colonel Beverly “Ben” Skardon.

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