**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR AND REMEMBER THE SUPREME SACRIFICE MADE BY STAFF SERGEANT RAPHAEL A. FUTRELL OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY WHILE HE WAS SERVING A TOUR OF MILITARY DUTY IN IRAQ, AND TO EXPRESS TO HIS FAMILY THE DEEPEST APPRECIATION OF A GRATEFUL STATE AND NATION FOR HIS LIFE, SACRIFICE, AND SERVICE.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, on behalf of all South Carolinians, acknowledge with deep appreciation the great sacrifice that the men and women of the United States Armed Forces make for the ideals of freedom and justice, which are so richly enjoyed in this nation; and

Whereas, Staff Sergeant Raphael A. Futrell of the United States Army stands high among those servicemen and women so honored by their country; and

Whereas, as a committed serviceman, Staff Sergeant Raphael A. Futrell was assigned to the 13th Military Police Detachment, 728th Military Police Battalion, 8th Military Police Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, in Fort Shafter, Hawaii. Answering the call of his country, he left his home in Anderson to serve in Iraq, having previously completed a tour of duty in Afghanistan as a military policeman guarding captured Taliban prisoners; and

Whereas, on March 25, 2009, at the age of twenty‑six, Staff Sergeant Futrell lost his life in Baghdad, Iraq, while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

Whereas, there is no greater or more courageous sacrifice a man can make than to lay down his life for a noble cause, as Staff Sergeant Raphael A. Futrell has done, and to honor his valor, Staff Sergeant Futrell has been named a recipient of the Lieutenant Governor’s Palmetto Patriot Award; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly counts it a great privilege to remember Staff Sergeant Raphael A. Futrell, one of the Palmetto State’s finest, and the members with one voice offer their grateful thanks to Almighty God for the service and ultimate sacrifice of this heroic son of South Carolina. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, honor and remember the supreme sacrifice made by Staff Sergeant Raphael A. Futrell of the United States Army while he was serving a tour of military duty in Iraq, and express to his family the deepest appreciation of a grateful State and nation for his life, sacrifice, and service.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Staff Sergeant Raphael A. Futrell.

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