**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR AND REMEMBER THE SUPREME SACRIFICE MADE BY SPECIALIST ABRAHAM S. WHEELER III OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY WHILE HE WAS SERVING A TOUR OF MILITARY DUTY IN AFGHANISTAN, AND TO EXPRESS TO HIS FAMILY THE PROFOUND APPRECIATION OF A GRATEFUL STATE AND NATION FOR HIS LIFE, SACRIFICE, AND SERVICE.

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

Whereas, Abraham S. Wheeler III graduated from Ridge View High School where he was a star on the football team, and in June 2007, he joined the United States Army with patriotic enthusiasm; and

Whereas, Specialist Wheeler left his family and friends in Columbia and arrived at Fort Drum, New York, in January 2008; he completed basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia, and advanced individual training at Fort Gordon, Georgia; and

Whereas, answering the call of his country to serve in Afghanistan with the 3rd Squadron, 71st Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Specialist Wheeler deployed with his unit in January 2009 for his first tour of duty in Afghanistan; and

Whereas, trained as a signal support systems specialist, he earned the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the NATO Medal, and the Combat Action Badge; and

Whereas, on August 28, 2009, Specialist Abraham Wheeler gave his life in the Logar province of Afghanistan when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle; and

Whereas, there is no greater or braver sacrifice for a man to make for his country than to lay down his life; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly is honored to remember the life and sacrifice of one of South Carolina’s brave sons and heroes, Specialist Abraham S. Wheeler III; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly express to the family of Specialist Abraham S. Wheeler III their profound gratitude for his life, his sacrifice, and his service. 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 Specialist Abraham S. Wheeler III of the United States Army while he was serving a tour of military duty in Afghanistan, and express to his family the profound 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 Specialist Abraham S. Wheeler III.

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