**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR LIEUTENANT COLONEL THOMAS G. FOLSE OF CHARLESTON COUNTY, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT, AND TO WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to learn that Lieutenant Colonel Thomas G. Folse, United States Air Force, Retired, will begin a second and much deserved retirement after eighteen years of distinguished service as director of the Junior ROTC at James Island Charter School; and

Whereas, a graduate of the University of South Carolina with a bachelor’s degree in banking and finance, Mr. Folse served for twenty years in the United States Air Force as fighter pilot; and

Whereas, he earned his navigator wings at Mather Air Force Base in California and completed fighter lead‑in training in the F‑4 Phantom aircraft before serving as an F‑4 weapons‑system officer at Korat Royal Thai Air Base in Southeast Asia; and

Whereas, during his notable career in the United States Air Force, Mr. Folse flew one hundred eighty‑eight combat missions, of which one hundred thirty‑three were night missions; and

Whereas, he served in the 334th Tactical Fighter Squadron (TFS), as a class commander for pilot training, as an aircraft commander with the 59th TFS for F‑4s and with the 67th TFS, and as a flight commander for the 25th TFS; and

Whereas, at Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter, Mr. Folse served as assistant operations officer, supervisor of flying, and instructor pilot with the 21st Tactical Air Support Squadron; and

Whereas, he attended the Air Force Staff College in the United Kingdom, and in Germany he was the air‑operations staff officer in the International Affairs Division of the Headquarters for United State Air Forces in Europe, aircraft commander for the 22nd TFS, and operations officer and squadron commander for the 525th TFS when the squadron won an Air Force Outstanding Unit Award; and

Whereas, for his outstanding military service, Mr. Folse received numerous commendations including the Distinguished Flying Cross in 1970, the Air Force Commendation Medal from 1975 to 1977, and the Meritorious Service Medal from 1977 to 1980; and

Whereas, Mr. Folse completed a master of business administration degree at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University where he served as an adjunct professor, and he earned a master’s degree in psychology at The Citadel and is a licensed professional counselor; and

Whereas, in 1992, Mr. Folse started the Junior ROTC program for James Island Charter School, a program that has produced numerous outstanding leaders and citizens in its eighteen years of operation and produced five student appointments to the United States Service Academies; and

Whereas, Thomas G. Folse married his high school sweetheart, Mary Norris of Vance, and they reared two fine daughters, Nicole Folse Norris and Alison Folse Guerard, who have blessed them with three wonderful grandchildren; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are grateful for the legacy of caring and dedication that Lieutenant Colonel Thomas G. Folse has provided for students in South Carolina and for his noble service to our nation. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and honor Lieutenant Colonel Thomas G. Folse of Charleston County, upon the occasion of his retirement, and wish him continued success in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Lieutenant Colonel Thomas G. Folse.

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