**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN W. MIMS, OF KERSHAW COUNTY, UNITED STATES ARMY CHAPLAIN, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT, TO COMMEND HIM FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE, AND TO WISH HIM MUCH HAPPINESS AND FULFILLMENT IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, it is with great pleasure that the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives honor those individuals who give tirelessly of themselves to the welfare of this great state’s citizenry; and

Whereas, Lieutenant Colonel John W. Mims, of Kershaw County, retiring United States Army chaplain, stands among their number as an outstanding public servant; and

Whereas, after enlisting in the United States Army in 1965, the young John was sent to Fort Gordon, Georgia, for basic training, following which he was reassigned to leader basic training. Deciding while at this second school that he wanted to be a paratrooper, he trained at Fort Benning, Georgia, and Pope Field in North Carolina. While at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, he volunteered for combat duty in Vietnam, where he served for a year from 1967 to 1968; and

Whereas, having already earned the Paratrooper Badge, for his excellence in service he was granted the Combat Infantry Badge, Army Commendation Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and Vietnam Campaign Medal; and

Whereas, he was discharged from the Army in 1968, married in 1969, and began studies at the University of South Carolina while working full time. In 1974, having decided to go into the gospel ministry, he accepted an appointment as a minister for a three‑church charge in Darlington, at the same time working to complete his education at Coker College. He then entered Emory University to earn his divinity degree; and

Whereas, following completion of this degree, he was appointed to Pageland United Methodist Church and was asked by members of his congregation to join the National Guard and serve as their chaplain in the Lancaster area. With the church board’s blessing, he accepted and later returned to the Army full time. His service as a chaplain since that time has led him to Fort Hood, Texas; Germany; Walter Reed Army Medical Center; Fort Lewis, Washington; Fort Carson, Colorado; South Korea; Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Fort McPherson, Georgia; and South Carolina’s Fort Jackson, from which assignment he retired after a career service total of nearly thirty‑three years; and

Whereas, as part of a continued committed involvement with his community, The Reverend John W. Mims now serves as pastor of St. John’s United Methodist Church in Lugoff; and

Whereas, having served his country and this State with diligence and distinction as a military chaplain, John W. Mims will be remembered with gratitude by colleagues and legislative friends for years to come. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate Lieutenant Colonel John W. Mims, of Kershaw County, United States Army chaplain, upon the occasion of his retirement, commend him for his many years of dedicated service, and wish him much happiness and fulfillment in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Lieutenant Colonel John W. Mims.

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