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Indicates New Matter

The House assembled at 12:00 noon.

Deliberations were opened with prayer by Rev. Charles E. Seastrunk, Jr., as follows:

Our thought for today is from Proverbs 27:7: “Iron sharpens iron, and one person sharpens the wits of another.”

Let us pray. Almighty God, as these Representatives come together, may they be joined together to do Your will and the will of the people. Guide them to make the right decisions to move this State forward, that we may be an example to others in our fight to preserve freedom. Bless our Nation, State, and all our leaders. Protect our defenders of freedom at home and abroad, as they protect us. Heal the wounds, those seen and those hidden, of our brave warriors. Hear us, O Lord, as we pray. Amen.

Pursuant to Rule 6.3, the House of Representatives was led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America by the SPEAKER.

After corrections to the Journal of the proceedings of Friday, February 10, the SPEAKER ordered it confirmed.

**MOTION ADOPTED**

Rep. HORNE moved that when the House adjourns, it adjourn in memory of Martha Simmons of Summerville, which was agreed to.

**INVITATIONS**

On motion of Rep. BARFIELD, with unanimous consent, the following were taken up for immediate consideration and accepted:

February 16, 2012

The Honorable Liston D. Barfield

Chairman, House Invitations Committee

503A Blatt Building

Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Chairman Barfield:

 On behalf of EdisonLearning, Inc., the Members and staff of the House of Representatives are invited to a Legislative Breakfast. This event will be held on Thursday, March 1, 2012, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in Room 112 of the Blatt Building.

Sincerely,

Monica Henson, EdD

Vice President, Business Development

EdisonLearning, Inc.

February 16, 2012

House Invitations Committee

503A Blatt Building

Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Committee:

 On behalf of the American Legislative Exchange Council, the Members and staff of the House of Representatives are invited to a Legislative Reception. This event will be held on Tuesday, March 6, 2012, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Clarion Hotel.

Sincerely,

Liston D. Barfield, Secretary

American Exchange Legislative Council Board of Trustees

February 16, 2012

The Honorable Liston D. Barfield

Chairman, House Invitations Committee

503A Blatt Building

Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Chairman Barfield:

 On behalf of the South Carolina Aviation Association, the Members of the House of Representatives are invited to a Legislative Breakfast. This event will be held on Wednesday, March 7, 2012, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in Room 112 of the Blatt Building.

Sincerely,

Katie Koon, Executive Director

South Carolina Aviation Association

February 16, 2012

The Honorable Liston D. Barfield

Chairman, House Invitations Committee

503A Blatt Building

Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Chairman Barfield:

 On behalf of the United Way Association of South Carolina, the Members and staff of the House of Representatives are invited to a Legislative Luncheon. This event will be held on Wednesday, March 7, 2012, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Room 112 of the Blatt Building.

Sincerely,

Caitlin M. Carey

United Way Association of South Carolina

February 16, 2012

The Honorable Liston D. Barfield

Chairman, House Invitations Committee

503A Blatt Building

Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Chairman Barfield:

 On behalf of the South Carolina Summary Court Judges Association, the Members of the House of Representatives are invited to a Legislative Reception. This event will be held on Wednesday, March 7, 2012, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Seawell’s.

Sincerely,

Donna H. Williamson

South Carolina Summary Court Judges Association

February 16, 2012

The Honorable Liston D. Barfield

Chairman, House Invitations Committee

503A Blatt Building

Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Chairman Barfield:

 On behalf of the Foundation for the South Carolina Governor’s School for Science & Mathematics, the Members of the House of Representatives are invited to the 20th Annual Townes Award Dinner. This event will be held on Wednesday, March 7, 2012, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Columbia Marriott.

Sincerely,

Kim Bowman, CEO

Governor’s School for Science & Mathematics Foundation

February 16, 2012

The Honorable Liston D. Barfield

Chairman, House Invitations Committee

503A Blatt Building

Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Chairman Barfield:

 On behalf of Faces & Voices of Recovery, Midlands Chapter, the Members and staff of the House of Representatives are invited to a Legislative Breakfast. This event will be held on Thursday, March 8, 2012, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in Room 112 of the Blatt Building.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Pate, Chair

Faces and Voices of Recovery, SC

February 16, 2012

The Honorable Liston D. Barfield

Chairman, House Invitations Committee

503A Blatt Building

Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Chairman Barfield:

 On behalf of the Florence County Legislative Day Committee, the Members and staff of the House of Representatives are invited to a Legislative Reception. This event will be held on Tuesday, March 20, 2012, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Columbia Museum of Art.

Sincerely,

Katie M. Wyllie

Florence County Economic Development Partnership

February 16, 2012

The Honorable Liston D. Barfield

Chairman, House Invitations Committee

503A Blatt Building

Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Chairman Barfield:

 On behalf of the Association of Cosmetology Salon Professionals, the Members and staff of the House of Representatives are invited to a Legislative Breakfast. This event will be held on Wednesday, March 21, 2012, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in Room 112 of the Blatt Building.

Sincerely,

Doug Robinson, President

Association of Cosmetology Salon Professionals

February 16, 2012

The Honorable Liston D. Barfield

Chairman, House Invitations Committee

503A Blatt Building

Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Chairman Barfield:

 On behalf of the South Carolina Athletic Trainers Association, the Members and staff of the House of Representatives are invited to a Legislative Luncheon. This event will be held on Wednesday, March 21, 2012, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Room 112 of the Blatt Building.

Sincerely,

J. “Raz” Razayeski, M.Ed., ATC

South Carolina Athletic Trainers Association

February 16, 2012

The Honorable Liston D. Barfield

Chairman, House Invitations Committee

503A Blatt Building

Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Chairman Barfield:

 On behalf of the Mechanical Contractors Association of South Carolina, the Members and staff of the House of Representatives are invited to a Legislative Reception. This event will be held on Wednesday, March 21, 2012, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at “The Coop.”

Sincerely,

Mona L. Flowers, Managing Director

Mechanical Contractors Association of South Carolina

February 16, 2012

The Honorable Liston D. Barfield

Chairman, House Invitations Committee

503A Blatt Building

Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Chairman Barfield:

 On behalf of Leadership South Carolina, the Members and staff of the House of Representatives are invited to a Legislative Breakfast. This event will be held on Thursday, March 22, 2012, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in Room 112 of the Blatt Building.

Sincerely,

Helen Munnerlyn, Executive Director

Leadership South Carolina

February 16, 2012

The Honorable Liston D. Barfield

Chairman, House Invitations Committee

503A Blatt Building

Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Chairman Barfield:

 On behalf of the South Carolina Realtors, the Members and staff of the House of Representatives are invited to a Legislative Luncheon. This event will be held on Tuesday, March 27, 2012, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the State House Grounds.

Sincerely,

Schipp Ames, Political Director

South Carolina Realtors

February 16, 2012

The Honorable Liston D. Barfield

Chairman, House Invitations Committee

503A Blatt Building

Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Chairman Barfield:

 On behalf of the South Carolina Hospital Association, the Members and staff of the House of Representatives are invited to a Legislative Reception. This event will be held on Tuesday, March 27, 2012, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Clarion Hotel.

Sincerely,

Thornton Kirby, President & CEO

South Carolina Hospital Association

February 16, 2012

The Honorable Liston D. Barfield

Chairman, House Invitations Committee

503A Blatt Building

Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Chairman Barfield:

 On behalf of the South Carolina Association of Health Underwriters, the Members of the House of Representatives are invited to a Legislative Breakfast. This event will be held on Wednesday, March 28, 2012, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in Room 112 of the Blatt Building.

Sincerely,

Katie Koon, Executive Director

South Carolina Association of Health Underwriters

February 16, 2012

The Honorable Liston D. Barfield

Chairman, House Invitations Committee

503A Blatt Building

Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Chairman Barfield:

 On behalf of Jasper County, the Members and staff of the House of Representatives are invited to a Legislative Luncheon. This event will be held on Wednesday, March 28, 2012, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the State House Grounds.

Sincerely,

Kendall Malphrus, Executive Director

Jasper County Chamber of Commerce

February 16, 2012

The Honorable Liston D. Barfield

Chairman, House Invitations Committee

503A Blatt Building

Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Chairman Barfield:

 On behalf of the Home Builders Association of South Carolina, the Members of the House of Representatives are invited to the 42nd Annual Bird Supper. This event will be held on Wednesday, March 28, 2012, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Columbia Marriott.

Sincerely,

Mark Nix, Executive Director

Home Builders Association of South Carolina

February 16, 2012

The Honorable Liston D. Barfield

Chairman, House Invitations Committee

503A Blatt Building

Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Chairman Barfield:

 On behalf of Lander University, the Members of the House of Representatives are invited to a Legislative Breakfast. This event will be held on Thursday, March 29, 2012, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in Room 112 of the Blatt Building.

Sincerely,

Daniel W. Ball, President

Lander University

**REGULATIONS RECEIVED**

The following were received and referred to the appropriate committee for consideration:

Document No. 4258

Agency: State Board of Education

Statutory Authority: 1976 Code Sections 59-5-60, 59-18-110, 59-29-10 et seq., 59-29-200, 59-33-30, 59-53-1810, 20 U.S.C. 1232(g), and 20 U.S.C. 6301, et seq.

Defined Program, Grades 9-12

Received by Speaker of the House of Representatives

February 14, 2012

Referred to Education and Public Works Committee

Legislative Review Expiration January 13, 2013

Document No. 4261

Agency: State Board of Education

Statutory Authority: 1976 Code Sections 59-5-60, 59-29-100, and 20 U.S.C. 6301, et seq.

Graduation Requirements

Received by Speaker of the House of Representatives

February 13, 2012

Referred to Education and Public Works Committee

Legislative Review Expiration January 12, 2013

**MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE**

The following was received:

Columbia, S.C., February 21, 2012

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House:

 The Senate respectfully invites your Honorable Body to attend in the Senate Chamber at a mutually convenient time on Tuesday, February 21, 2012, for the purpose of ratifying Acts.

Very respectfully,

President

On motion of Rep. TAYLOR the invitation was accepted.

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

Rep. BARFIELD, from the Committee on Invitations and Memorial Resolutions, submitted a favorable report on:

H. 4749 -- Rep. Thayer: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES NAME ITS HEADQUARTERS BUILDING LOCATED AT 10311 WILSON BOULEVARD, BLYTHEWOOD, SOUTH CAROLINA THE "COLONEL AND MRS. CHARLES P. MURRAY, JR. BUILDING".

Ordered for consideration tomorrow.

Rep. BARFIELD, from the Committee on Invitations and Memorial Resolutions, submitted a favorable report on:

S. 1000 -- Senator Peeler: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME THE INTERCHANGE LOCATED AT EXIT 92 ALONG INTERSTATE HIGHWAY 85 IN CHEROKEE COUNTY "LANCE CORPORAL CHRISTOPHER S. FOWLKES MEMORIAL INTERCHANGE" AND ERECT APPROPRIATE MARKERS OR SIGNS AT THIS INTERCHANGE THAT CONTAIN THE WORDS "LANCE CORPORAL CHRISTOPHER S. FOWLKES MEMORIAL INTERCHANGE".

Ordered for consideration tomorrow.

**HOUSE RESOLUTION**

The following was introduced:

H. 4777 -- Reps. Brady, Agnew, Alexander, Allen, Allison, Anderson, Anthony, Atwater, Bales, Ballentine, Bannister, Barfield, Battle, Bedingfield, Bikas, Bingham, Bowen, Bowers, Branham, Brannon, Brantley, G. A. Brown, H. B. Brown, R. L. Brown, Butler Garrick, Chumley, Clemmons, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Cole, Corbin, Crawford, Crosby, Daning, Delleney, Dillard, Edge, Erickson, Forrester, Frye, Funderburk, Gambrell, Gilliard, Govan, Hamilton, Hardwick, Harrell, Harrison, Hart, Hayes, Hearn, Henderson, Herbkersman, Hiott, Hixon, Hodges, Horne, Hosey, Howard, Huggins, Jefferson, Johnson, King, Knight, Limehouse, Loftis, Long, Lowe, Lucas, Mack, McCoy, McEachern, McLeod, Merrill, D. C. Moss, V. S. Moss, Munnerlyn, Murphy, Nanney, J. H. Neal, J. M. Neal, Neilson, Norman, Ott, Owens, Parker, Parks, Patrick, Pinson, Pitts, Pope, Putnam, Quinn, Rutherford, Ryan, Sabb, Sandifer, Sellers, Simrill, Skelton, G. M. Smith, G. R. Smith, J. E. Smith, J. R. Smith, Sottile, Southard, Spires, Stavrinakis, Stringer, Tallon, Taylor, Thayer, Toole, Tribble, Vick, Viers, Weeks, Whipper, White, Whitmire, Williams, Willis and Young: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO HONOR THE REVEREND DR. JOHN V. PLATT, ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF SPRING VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH IN COLUMBIA, FOR HIS FIFTY-TWO YEARS OF GOSPEL MINISTRY AND TO WISH HIM GOD'S RICHEST BLESSINGS AS HE CONTINUES TO SERVE THE LORD.

The Resolution was adopted.

**HOUSE RESOLUTION**

The following was introduced:

H. 4778 -- Rep. Nanney: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UPON THE PASSING OF CHARLES GAYLAND SLICK OF GREENVILLE COUNTY, AND TO EXTEND THEIR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS LOVING FAMILY AND HIS MANY FRIENDS.

The Resolution was adopted.

**HOUSE RESOLUTION**

The following was introduced:

H. 4779 -- Reps. Sellers, Agnew, Alexander, Allen, Allison, Anderson, Anthony, Atwater, Bales, Ballentine, Bannister, Barfield, Battle, Bedingfield, Bikas, Bingham, Bowen, Bowers, Brady, Branham, Brannon, Brantley, G. A. Brown, H. B. Brown, R. L. Brown, Butler Garrick, Chumley, Clemmons, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Cole, Corbin, Crawford, Crosby, Daning, Delleney, Dillard, Edge, Erickson, Forrester, Frye, Funderburk, Gambrell, Gilliard, Govan, Hamilton, Hardwick, Harrell, Harrison, Hart, Hayes, Hearn, Henderson, Herbkersman, Hiott, Hixon, Hodges, Horne, Hosey, Howard, Huggins, Jefferson, Johnson, King, Knight, Limehouse, Loftis, Long, Lowe, Lucas, Mack, McCoy, McEachern, McLeod, Merrill, D. C. Moss, V. S. Moss, Munnerlyn, Murphy, Nanney, J. H. Neal, J. M. Neal, Neilson, Norman, Ott, Owens, Parker, Parks, Patrick, Pinson, Pitts, Pope, Putnam, Quinn, Rutherford, Ryan, Sabb, Sandifer, Simrill, Skelton, G. M. Smith, G. R. Smith, J. E. Smith, J. R. Smith, Sottile, Southard, Spires, Stavrinakis, Stringer, Tallon, Taylor, Thayer, Toole, Tribble, Vick, Viers, Weeks, Whipper, White, Whitmire, Williams, Willis and Young: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UPON THE DEATH OF BILLY JOE SHARPE OF BARNWELL COUNTY AND TO EXTEND THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND MANY FRIENDS.

The Resolution was adopted.

**HOUSE RESOLUTION**

The following was introduced:

H. 4780 -- Reps. Sellers, Agnew, Alexander, Allen, Allison, Anderson, Anthony, Atwater, Bales, Ballentine, Bannister, Barfield, Battle, Bedingfield, Bikas, Bingham, Bowen, Bowers, Brady, Branham, Brannon, Brantley, G. A. Brown, H. B. Brown, R. L. Brown, Butler Garrick, Chumley, Clemmons, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Cole, Corbin, Crawford, Crosby, Daning, Delleney, Dillard, Edge, Erickson, Forrester, Frye, Funderburk, Gambrell, Gilliard, Govan, Hamilton, Hardwick, Harrell, Harrison, Hart, Hayes, Hearn, Henderson, Herbkersman, Hiott, Hixon, Hodges, Horne, Hosey, Howard, Huggins, Jefferson, Johnson, King, Knight, Limehouse, Loftis, Long, Lowe, Lucas, Mack, McCoy, McEachern, McLeod, Merrill, D. C. Moss, V. S. Moss, Munnerlyn, Murphy, Nanney, J. H. Neal, J. M. Neal, Neilson, Norman, Ott, Owens, Parker, Parks, Patrick, Pinson, Pitts, Pope, Putnam, Quinn, Rutherford, Ryan, Sabb, Sandifer, Simrill, Skelton, G. M. Smith, G. R. Smith, J. E. Smith, J. R. Smith, Sottile, Southard, Spires, Stavrinakis, Stringer, Tallon, Taylor, Thayer, Toole, Tribble, Vick, Viers, Weeks, Whipper, White, Whitmire, Williams, Willis and Young: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, UPON THE PASSING OF JOSEPH DEER THOMAS, M. D., OF BAMBERG COUNTY, AND TO EXTEND THEIR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS LARGE AND LOVING FAMILY AND HIS MANY FRIENDS.

The Resolution was adopted.

**HOUSE RESOLUTION**

The following was introduced:

H. 4781 -- Rep. Forrester: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO EXTEND THE PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE DORMAN HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY BOYS TENNIS TEAM OF SPARTANBURG COUNTY WITH THE TEAM COACHES AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS, AT A DATE AND TIME TO BE DETERMINED BY THE SPEAKER, FOR THE PURPOSE OF BEING RECOGNIZED AND COMMENDED FOR CAPTURING THE 2011 SOUTH CAROLINA CLASS AAAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the privilege of the floor of the South Carolina House of Representatives be extended to the Dorman High School varsity boys tennis team of Spartanburg County with the team coaches and school officials, at a date and time to be determined by the Speaker, for the purpose of being recognized and commended for capturing the 2011 South Carolina Class AAAA State Championship title.

The Resolution was adopted.

**HOUSE RESOLUTION**

The following was introduced:

H. 4782 -- Reps. Forrester, Agnew, Alexander, Allen, Allison, Anderson, Anthony, Atwater, Bales, Ballentine, Bannister, Barfield, Battle, Bedingfield, Bikas, Bingham, Bowen, Bowers, Brady, Branham, Brannon, Brantley, G. A. Brown, H. B. Brown, R. L. Brown, Butler Garrick, Chumley, Clemmons, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Cole, Corbin, Crawford, Crosby, Daning, Delleney, Dillard, Edge, Erickson, Frye, Funderburk, Gambrell, Gilliard, Govan, Hamilton, Hardwick, Harrell, Harrison, Hart, Hayes, Hearn, Henderson, Herbkersman, Hiott, Hixon, Hodges, Horne, Hosey, Howard, Huggins, Jefferson, Johnson, King, Knight, Limehouse, Loftis, Long, Lowe, Lucas, Mack, McCoy, McEachern, McLeod, Merrill, D. C. Moss, V. S. Moss, Munnerlyn, Murphy, Nanney, J. H. Neal, J. M. Neal, Neilson, Norman, Ott, Owens, Parker, Parks, Patrick, Pinson, Pitts, Pope, Putnam, Quinn, Rutherford, Ryan, Sabb, Sandifer, Sellers, Simrill, Skelton, G. M. Smith, G. R. Smith, J. E. Smith, J. R. Smith, Sottile, Southard, Spires, Stavrinakis, Stringer, Tallon, Taylor, Thayer, Toole, Tribble, Vick, Viers, Weeks, Whipper, White, Whitmire, Williams, Willis and Young: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE DORMAN HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY BOYS TRACK TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR AN OUTSTANDING SEASON, AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2011 CLASS AAAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

The Resolution was adopted.

**HOUSE RESOLUTION**

The following was introduced:

H. 4783 -- Rep. Forrester: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO EXTEND THE PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE DORMAN HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY BOYS TRACK TEAM OF SPARTANBURG COUNTY WITH THE TEAM COACHES AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS, AT A DATE AND TIME TO BE DETERMINED BY THE SPEAKER, FOR THE PURPOSE OF BEING RECOGNIZED AND COMMENDED FOR CAPTURING THE 2011 SOUTH CAROLINA CLASS AAAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the privilege of the floor of the South Carolina House of Representatives be extended to the Dorman High School varsity boys track team of Spartanburg County with the team coaches and school officials, at a date and time to be determined by the Speaker, for the purpose of being recognized and commended for capturing the 2011 South Carolina Class AAAA State Championship title.

The Resolution was adopted.

**HOUSE RESOLUTION**

The following was introduced:

H. 4784 -- Reps. Forrester, Agnew, Alexander, Allen, Allison, Anderson, Anthony, Atwater, Bales, Ballentine, Bannister, Barfield, Battle, Bedingfield, Bikas, Bingham, Bowen, Bowers, Brady, Branham, Brannon, Brantley, G. A. Brown, H. B. Brown, R. L. Brown, Butler Garrick, Chumley, Clemmons, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Cole, Corbin, Crawford, Crosby, Daning, Delleney, Dillard, Edge, Erickson, Frye, Funderburk, Gambrell, Gilliard, Govan, Hamilton, Hardwick, Harrell, Harrison, Hart, Hayes, Hearn, Henderson, Herbkersman, Hiott, Hixon, Hodges, Horne, Hosey, Howard, Huggins, Jefferson, Johnson, King, Knight, Limehouse, Loftis, Long, Lowe, Lucas, Mack, McCoy, McEachern, McLeod, Merrill, D. C. Moss, V. S. Moss, Munnerlyn, Murphy, Nanney, J. H. Neal, J. M. Neal, Neilson, Norman, Ott, Owens, Parker, Parks, Patrick, Pinson, Pitts, Pope, Putnam, Quinn, Rutherford, Ryan, Sabb, Sandifer, Sellers, Simrill, Skelton, G. M. Smith, G. R. Smith, J. E. Smith, J. R. Smith, Sottile, Southard, Spires, Stavrinakis, Stringer, Tallon, Taylor, Thayer, Toole, Tribble, Vick, Viers, Weeks, Whipper, White, Whitmire, Williams, Willis and Young: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND THE DORMAN HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY BOYS TENNIS TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS OF SPARTANBURG COUNTY FOR A RECORD-BREAKING SEASON, AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR GARNERING THE 2011 CLASS AAAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

The Resolution was adopted.

**HOUSE RESOLUTION**

The following was introduced:

H. 4785 -- Rep. Henderson: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR DEB SOFIELD, PRESIDENT OF EXECUTIVE SPEECH & PRESENTATIONS COACHING CO., FOR SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS IN HER COMMUNITY, IN THE STATE, IN THE NATION, AND ABROAD.

The Resolution was adopted.

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

The Senate sent to the House the following:

S. 1094 -- Senator Land: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME THE PORTION OF STATE ROAD S-14-187 IN CLARENDON COUNTY FROM ITS INTERSECTION WITH BARRINEAU ROAD TO NEW TOWN ROAD "SERGEANT WALTER KENNETH FLOYD MEMORIAL HIGHWAY" AND ERECT APPROPRIATE MARKERS OR SIGNS ALONG THIS HIGHWAY THAT CONTAIN THE WORDS "SERGEANT WALTER KENNETH FLOYD MEMORIAL HIGHWAY".

The Concurrent Resolution was ordered referred to the Committee on Invitations and Memorial Resolutions.

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

The Senate sent to the House the following:

S. 1166 -- Senator Verdin: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND SOUTH CAROLINA'S FFA MEMBERS (FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA) AND ALL WHO SUPPORT, PROMOTE, AND ENCOURAGE THESE OUTSTANDING STUDENTS OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND TO JOIN THEM IN OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL FFA WEEK, FEBRUARY 18-25, 2012.

Whereas, the FFA is a national organization of five hundred forty thousand students of agricultural education in secondary schools, technical colleges, and universities with chapters in all fifty states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands; and

Whereas, FFA members upon graduating from high school are prepared for one of the more than three hundred career opportunities available in the science, business, or technology of agriculture; and

Whereas, South Carolina’s FFA members are recognized nationally for their quality agricultural training, leadership abilities, academic achievements, and community service; and

Whereas, South Carolina’s agricultural educators are known and respected throughout the nation for their exemplary leadership in planning and implementing superb programs on behalf of FFA members; and

Whereas, the FFA organization is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of its members by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the General Assembly, by this resolution, recognize and commend South Carolina’s FFA members (Future Farmers of America) and all who support, promote, and encourage these outstanding students of agricultural education and join them in observance of National FFA Week, February 18‑25, 2012.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the appropriate FFA officials in South Carolina.

The Concurrent Resolution was agreed to and ordered returned to the Senate with concurrence.

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

The Senate sent to the House the following:

S. 1191 -- Senator Peeler: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO DECLARE FEBRUARY 17, 2012, AS AN ANNUAL DAY OF COMMEMORATION IN THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA TO REMEMBER THE BURNING OF COLUMBIA BY UNION GENERAL WILLIAM T. SHERMAN.

Whereas, on his march through the Carolinas, General William Tecumseh Sherman destroyed everything of military value along the way; and

Whereas, he was particularly interested in targeting South Carolina, the first state to secede from the Union; and

Whereas, on February 17, 1865, General Sherman’s Union troops completed the long march from Savannah and reached Columbia; and

Whereas, T.J. Goodwyn, Columbia’s Mayor, surrendered the city to General Sherman. Fires began that night and by the next morning most of the central city was destroyed; and

Whereas, almost 500 buildings and their contents had been destroyed including warehouses, factories, offices, hotels, schools, libraries, private residences, churches, and a Catholic convent; and

Whereas, the burning of Columbia has engendered controversy ever since, with some claiming the fires were accidental, others a deliberate act of vengeance, and still others that the retreating Confederates burned bales of cotton on their way out of town; and

Whereas, among the buildings burned were the old South Carolina State House and the interior of the incomplete new State House; and

Whereas, today we remember General Sherman’s march through Columbia by the State House Monument, erected on the State House grounds in 1938, that marks the location of the original State House in Columbia burned by Sherman’s troops, and by six bronze stars on our current State House that mark where the building was hit by artillery fire; and

Whereas, it is fitting and proper for the members of the General Assembly to pause in their deliberations to remember the rich heritage of our great State. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the General Assembly, by this resolution, declare February 17, 2012, as an Annual Day of Commemoration in South Carolina to remember the burning of Columbia by Union General William T. Sherman.

The Concurrent Resolution was agreed to and ordered returned to the Senate with concurrence.

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

The Senate sent to the House the following:

S. 1207 -- Senators Hutto, Alexander, Anderson, Bright, Bryant, Campbell, Campsen, Cleary, Coleman, Courson, Cromer, Davis, Elliott, Fair, Ford, Gregory, Grooms, Hayes, Jackson, Knotts, Land, Leatherman, Leventis, Lourie, Malloy, L. Martin, S. Martin, Massey, Matthews, McConnell, McGill, Nicholson, O'Dell, Peeler, Pinckney, Rankin, Reese, Rose, Ryberg, Scott, Setzler, Sheheen, Shoopman, Thomas, Verdin and Williams: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO DECLARE WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2012, AS "CITIES MEAN BUSINESS DAY" IN ORDER TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS SOUTH CAROLINA CITIES AND TOWNS MAKE TO THE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA THROUGH THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES.

Whereas, our cities and towns derive their power from the State Constitution and laws adopted by the General Assembly; and

Whereas, there are two hundred sixty‑nine duly incorporated municipalities within the State; and

Whereas, cities and towns are valuable resources to state economic development, job creation, and competitiveness efforts; and

Whereas, cities and towns are considered hometowns for their residents, providing a sense of place and a spirit of community to all within and around their municipal boundaries; and

Whereas, cities and towns provide essential services such as law enforcement, fire protection, health and sanitation, recreation, and growth and development controls to protect and enhance the quality of life for all of the citizens of the State; and

Whereas, the amenities and services that cities and towns provide to residents attract business and industry to the region; and

Whereas, mayors and council members are the local elected leadership that guide the growth and development of cities and towns that in turn lead to the success of the State and the region; and

Whereas, dedicated employees of cities and towns provide the services for residents that contribute to the quality of life and local business success; and

Whereas, cities and towns mean business and are economic engines of the State, contributing to the overall success of South Carolina; and

Whereas, healthy, financially sound, and economically strong cities and towns are essential to the health and welfare of the State. 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, declare Wednesday, February 15, 2012, as “Cities Mean Business Day” in order to recognize and honor the valuable contributions South Carolina cities and towns make to our state’s economic prosperity through their relationship with local businesses.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Paul Miller, Mayor of the City of Orangeburg and 2012 President of the Municipal Association of South Carolina.

The Concurrent Resolution was agreed to and ordered returned to the Senate with concurrence.

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

The Senate sent to the House the following:

S. 1216 -- Senators Scott, Williams, Anderson, Alexander, Ford, Matthews, McConnell, Jackson, Nicholson, Massey, Coleman, Knotts, Hutto, Cleary, Rose and Gregory: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO AFFIRM SOUTH CAROLINA'S DEDICATION TO THE FUTURE SUCCESS OF ITS YOUNG PEOPLE AND TO THE PREVENTION OF TEEN PREGNANCY AND TO DECLARE MAY 2012 AS TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION MONTH IN THE PALMETTO STATE.

The Concurrent Resolution was agreed to and ordered returned to the Senate with concurrence.

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

The Senate sent to the House the following:

S. 1219 -- Senator Scott: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO CONGRATULATE BRANDI CUMMINGS, FORMER WIS-TV REPORTER, ANCHOR, AND HOST, ON HER NEW POST AS AN ANCHOR FOR WTOC-TV IN SAVANNAH, GEORGIA, TO THANK HER FOR HER YEARS OF FINE SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, AND TO WISH HER THE BEST IN ALL HER FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

The Concurrent Resolution was agreed to and ordered returned to the Senate with concurrence.

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

The following Bills and Joint Resolutions were introduced, read the first time, and referred to appropriate committees:

H. 4786 -- Rep. Sandifer: A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 41-35-20, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE PAYMENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS BASED ON CERTAIN SERVICES IN SCHOOLS OR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SO AS TO EXTEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION TO SERVICES PROVIDED BY AN INSTITUTION FOR AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION WHILE EMPLOYED BY A PRIVATE EMPLOYER HOLDING A CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.

Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce and Industry

H. 4787 -- Rep. Brady: A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING CHAPTER 97 TO TITLE 38 SO AS TO ENACT THE "PORTABLE ELECTRONICS INSURANCE ACT", TO PROVIDE CERTAIN DEFINITIONS RELATED TO PORTABLE ELECTRONICS INSURANCE, TO PROVIDE REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO THE SALE OF PORTABLE ELECTRONICS INSURANCE, TO PROVIDE CERTAIN DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS OF A VENDOR OF PORTABLE ELECTRONICS INSURANCE TO THE PROSPECTIVE CONSUMER OF THIS INSURANCE, TO PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR A VIOLATION, AND TO PROVIDE LICENSURE FEES AND SURCHARGES.

Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce and Industry

H. 4788 -- Rep. Sellers: A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 50-9-730, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES' ABILITY TO DESIGNATE "FREE FISHING DAYS" AND SANCTION FISHING EVENTS EXEMPT FROM FISHING LICENSE REQUIREMENTS, SO AS TO DELETE THE PROVISION THAT ALLOWS THE DEPARTMENT TO DESIGNATE "FREE FISHING DAYS", TO DESIGNATE JULY FOURTH AND MEMORIAL DAY AS DAYS WHEN A RESIDENT IS NOT REQUIRED TO POSSESS A LICENSE OR PERMIT FOR FRESHWATER RECREATIONAL FISHING, TO LIMIT DEPARTMENT-SANCTIONED EVENTS THAT ARE EXEMPT FROM FISHING LICENSE REQUIREMENTS TO FRESHWATER EVENTS, AND TO EXEMPT CERTAIN COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN FROM THE PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN THIS SECTION.

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs

H. 4789 -- Rep. Sellers: A JOINT RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION 7, ARTICLE III OF THE CONSTITUTION OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1895, RELATING TO QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT BEGINNING WITH THOSE HOUSE MEMBERS ELECTED AT THE 2014 GENERAL ELECTION OR WHO TAKE OFFICE AFTER THAT DATE, ONCE THESE PERSONS HAVE THEREAFTER SERVED EIGHT FULL TERMS OR SIXTEEN YEARS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WHETHER OR NOT ANY OF THIS SERVICE HAS BEEN CONSECUTIVE, THEY ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES; AND TO PROVIDE BEGINNING WITH THOSE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE ELECTED AT THE 2014 GENERAL ELECTION OR WHO TAKE OFFICE AFTER THAT DATE, ONCE THESE PERSONS HAVE THEREAFTER SERVED FOUR FULL TERMS OR SIXTEEN YEARS IN THE SENATE, WHETHER OR NOT ANY OF THIS SERVICE HAS BEEN CONSECUTIVE, THEY ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE SENATE.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

S. 833 -- Senators Jackson, Courson, Lourie, Knotts, Anderson, Sheheen, Scott, Hayes, Ford, Nicholson, Leventis, Rose, Malloy and Setzler: A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 59-112-50, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO TUITION RATES FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL AND THEIR DEPENDENTS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL MAY BE CHARGED LESS THAN THE UNDERGRADUATE TUITION RATE FOR SOUTH CAROLINA RESIDENTS FOR CERTAIN COURSES.

Referred to Committee on Education and Public Works

S. 1025 -- Senators Campsen and Scott: A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 7-17-10, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE COUNTY BOARD OF CANVASSERS, SO AS TO CHANGE THE MEETING DATE FROM FRIDAY TO MONDAY; TO AMEND SECTION 7-17-20, RELATING TO THE CANVASS OF VOTES, SO AS TO CHANGE THE DEADLINE FROM SATURDAY TO TUESDAY; AND TO ADD SECTION 7-17-25, SO AS TO REQUIRE POST-ELECTION AUDITS TO BE CONDUCTED BY COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSIONS PURSUANT TO REGULATIONS PROMULGATED BY THE STATE ELECTION COMMISSION.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

S. 1180 -- Medical Affairs Committee: A JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE REGULATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL, RELATING TO CAPITAL EXPENDITURE REVIEWS UNDER SECTION 1122, SOCIAL SECURITY ACT, DESIGNATED AS REGULATION DOCUMENT NUMBER 4176, PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 23, TITLE 1 OF THE 1976 CODE.

Referred to Committee on Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs

S. 1181 -- Medical Affairs Committee: A JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE REGULATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL, RELATING TO HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANNING, DESIGNATED AS REGULATION DOCUMENT NUMBER 4175, PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 23, TITLE 1 OF THE 1976 CODE.

Referred to Committee on Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs

S. 1182 -- Medical Affairs Committee: A JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE REGULATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL, RELATING TO HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS, DESIGNATED AS REGULATION DOCUMENT NUMBER 4174, PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 23, TITLE 1 OF THE 1976 CODE.

Referred to Committee on Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs

S. 1200 -- Education Committee: A JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE REGULATIONS OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, RELATING TO AT-RISK STUDENTS, DESIGNATED AS REGULATION DOCUMENT NUMBER 4208, PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 23, TITLE 1 OF THE 1976 CODE.

On motion of Rep. OWENS, with unanimous consent, the Joint Resolution was ordered placed on the Calendar without reference.

S. 1201 -- Education Committee: A JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE REGULATIONS OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, RELATING TO END-OF-COURSE TESTS, DESIGNATED AS REGULATION DOCUMENT NUMBER 4200, PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 23, TITLE 1 OF THE 1976 CODE.

On motion of Rep. OWENS, with unanimous consent, the Joint Resolution was ordered placed on the Calendar without reference.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll call of the House of Representatives was taken resulting as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Alexander | Allen | Anderson |
| Anthony | Atwater | Bales |
| Ballentine | Bannister | Barfield |
| Battle | Bedingfield | Bingham |
| Bowen | Brady | Branham |
| Brannon | Brantley | G. A. Brown |
| R. L. Brown | Chumley | Clemmons |
| Clyburn | Cobb-Hunter | Corbin |
| Crawford | Crosby | Daning |
| Delleney | Erickson | Forrester |
| Frye | Funderburk | Gambrell |
| Gilliard | Hamilton | Hardwick |
| Harrell | Harrison | Hart |
| Hayes | Hearn | Henderson |
| Herbkersman | Hiott | Hixon |
| Hodges | Horne | Hosey |
| Howard | Jefferson | Johnson |
| King | Knight | Loftis |
| Long | Lowe | McEachern |
| McLeod | Merrill | D. C. Moss |
| V. S. Moss | Munnerlyn | Nanney |
| J. H. Neal | J. M. Neal | Norman |
| Owens | Parker | Parks |
| Pinson | Pope | Putnam |
| Ryan | Sabb | Sandifer |
| Simrill | G. R. Smith | J. R. Smith |
| Sottile | Southard | Spires |
| Stavrinakis | Stringer | Tallon |
| Taylor | Thayer | Toole |
| Tribble | Whitmire | Williams |
| Willis | Young |  |

**STATEMENT OF ATTENDANCE**

I came in after the roll call and was present for the Session on Tuesday, February 21.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Paul Agnew | Jerry Govan |
| Derham Cole, Jr. | Michael A. Pitts |
| Bakari Sellers | Chandra Dillard |
| B. R. Skelton | G. Murrell Smith |
| Mia Butler Garrick | James E. Smith |
| Jackson "Seth" Whipper | Peter McCoy, Jr. |
| Merita Allison | Chip Huggins |
| Boyd Brown | William Bowers |
| Chis Murphy | Todd Rutherford |
| Ted Vick | Richard "Rick" Quinn |
| Tracy Edge | Harry Ott |
| Brian White | David Weeks |
| David MackJay Lucas | Denny Neilson |

**Total Present--119**

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

The SPEAKER granted Rep. PATRICK a leave of absence for the day due to business reasons.

**STATEMENT OF ATTENDANCE**

Rep. BOWERS signed a statement with the Clerk that he came in after the roll call of the House and was present for the Session on Thursday, February 9.

**CO-SPONSORS ADDED AND REMOVED**

In accordance with House Rule 5.2 below:

"5.2 Every bill before presentation shall have its title endorsed; every report, its title at length; every petition, memorial, or other paper, its prayer or substance; and, in every instance, the name of the member presenting any paper shall be endorsed and the papers shall be presented by the member to the Speaker at the desk. A member may add his name to a bill or resolution or a co‑sponsor of a bill or resolution may remove his name at any time prior to the bill or resolution receiving passage on second reading. The member or co‑sponsor shall notify the Clerk of the House in writing of his desire to have his name added or removed from the bill or resolution. The Clerk of the House shall print the member’s or co‑sponsor’s written notification in the House Journal. The removal or addition of a name does not apply to a bill or resolution sponsored by a committee.”

**CO-SPONSOR ADDED**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Bill Number: | H. 3490 |
| Date: | ADD: |
| 02/21/12 | TOOLE |

**CO-SPONSOR ADDED**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Bill Number: | H. 4006 |
| Date: | ADD: |
| 02/21/12 | TOOLE |

**CO-SPONSORS ADDED**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Bill Number: | H. 4043 |
| Date: | ADD: |
| 02/21/12 | TOOLE and ERICKSON |

**CO-SPONSOR ADDED**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Bill Number: | H. 4625 |
| Date: | ADD: |
| 02/21/12 | BALLENTINE |

**CO-SPONSOR ADDED**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Bill Number: | H. 4690 |
| Date: | ADD: |
| 02/21/12 | ERICKSON |

**CO-SPONSOR REMOVED**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Bill Number: | H. 3507 |
| Date: | REMOVE: |
| 02/21/12 | TOOLE |

**CO-SPONSORS REMOVED**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Bill Number: | H. 4721 |
| Date: | REMOVE: |
| 02/21/12 | H. B. BROWN and AGNEW |

**CO-SPONSORS REMOVED**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Bill Number: | H. 4740 |
| Date: | REMOVE: |
| 02/21/12 | BOWEN, OWENS, TAYLOR, STRINGER, HUGGINS and HEARN |

**JOINT ASSEMBLY**

At 12:30 p.m. the Senate appeared in the Hall of the House. The President of the Senate called the Joint Assembly to order and announced that it had convened under the terms of a Concurrent Resolution adopted by both Houses.

**ADDRESS BY THE NATIONAL COMMANDER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**

The Reading Clerk of the House read the following Concurrent Resolution:

S. 1114 -- Senators Knotts, Grooms, Leventis, Ford, Bryant, Verdin, Setzler, Rose, Fair, McGill, Cleary, Land, Hayes, Matthews, Pinckney, Reese, Coleman, Malloy, Cromer, Sheheen, McConnell, Bright and Alexander: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO INVITE THE NATIONAL COMMANDER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, THE HONORABLE FANG WONG, TO ADDRESS THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN JOINT SESSION IN THE CHAMBER OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AT 12:30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2012.

The Honorable Fang Wong and distinguished party were escorted to the rostrum by Senators Alexander, Campbell, McGill, O’Dell and Peeler and Reps. JOHNSON, LONG and POPE. The Lieutenant Governor recognized our special guests and then introduced the Honorable Fang Wong, National Commander of the American Legion, who addressed the Joint Assembly as follows:

Lt. Governor Ard, I thank you for that kind introduction. It’s truly an honor to speak to such a distinguished body in this historic State House. Before I begin, please allow me to take a moment to introduce members of The American Legion family who are with me today:

First, it’s a real pleasure for me to introduce the Commander of the South Carolina American Legion, Mickey Taylor of Murrells Inlet Post #178 and Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The National Executive Committeeman for the Department of South Carolina, John Palmer of Seneca Post #120 and Mountain Rest, South Carolina, and Department Adjutant Jimmy Hawk of Richland Post #6 and Irmo, South Carolina. My aide and fellow New Yorker, Doug Malim. Auxiliary Department of South Carolina President and Department Secretary, Louise Winesett from Columbia, South Carolina. Auxiliary NECWoman Betty McMorrow of Little River, South Carolina. Alternate NECWoman Brenda Collins, of Greenville, South Carolina. The Commander of the South Carolina Detachment of the Sons of The American Legion, Jim Moore from Squadron #186 Little River, South Carolina.

We also have with us the Director of The American Legion Riders of South Carolina, Walt Richardson from Chapter #193 Chapin, South Carolina.

On behalf of the 2.4 million Legionnaires around the world and the nearly 200 Legion posts throughout the state of South Carolina, I want to thank each of you for what you do for our men and women who serve in our military and our veterans from past wars.

I would also like to acknowledge the fine work of the two men designated by the Department of South Carolina as the Outstanding Members of the Legislature for 2012. State Senator Jake Knotts and Representative Thomas E. Pope. We appreciate all that you do on behalf of veterans.

Ladies and gentlemen, South Carolina can truly be proud of its military tradition. While 9.3 percent of Americans can claim the title of “veteran,” 11.6 percent of the residents of South Carolina have earned this status.

Among those is Marine Lance Corporal Kyle Carpenter of Gilbert. This legislature recently passed a resolution in honor of Lance Corporal Carpenter, after he was severely wounded while shielding a fellow Marine from a grenade attack on a rooftop in Marjah, Afghanistan.

Investigators are trying to determine whether Kyle’s action merits a Congressional Medal of Honor. Lance Corporal Jared Riley, who served with Kyle said, “Kyle committed his body to making the ultimate sacrifice. It just wasn’t his time. He didn’t try to throw the grenade away and lose a hand, he didn’t try to cover it with a kevlar, he covered that grenade just as he approached everything in life, with everything he had.”

The Marine Corps Times reported that Lance Corporal Carpenter’s injuries left him clinging to life and badly scarred, but he has battled back after at least 30 surgeries to serve as an inspiration for fellow Marines, who admire his can-do spirit as he pushes through additional treatment at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

These young men and women who serve today are role models that continue to inspire us all. As a Vietnam War veteran who made a career of the U.S. Army, I have had the privilege of spending substantial time with veterans who have served in all the war eras since the last half of the century.

Regardless of when the veteran served, the sense of honor, duty and country permeates throughout the ranks. When California Governor Ronald Reagan introduced returning POW John McCain at a speaking engagement in 1974,the future president asked, “Where do we find such men?” He was speaking of many veterans, when he answered, “We find them in our streets, in the offices, the shops and the working places of our country and on the farms.”

Ladies and gentlemen — we also find a great many of them right here in South Carolina. Men and women working in factories, attending universities or running the registers at the local grocery stores. Most are unassuming. You wouldn’t know at all that they are military veterans unless you happen to see them at a parade or run across an old photograph of them in uniform.

But even those who are not very vocal about their military service deserve to be thanked or acknowledged. That is why The American Legion welcomes the proposal that you are considering to allow the Department of Motor Vehicles to denote one’s status as a military veteran on their South Carolina drivers licenses. As my predecessor, Jimmie Foster, said last year, “Symbols matter”.

But The American Legion also recognizes that it is important to support the families of veterans. We believe that America must never forget her fallen heroes, which is why we try to honor them by caring for their most precious legacy — their children. The American Legion Legacy Scholarship provides educational opportunities for children of military members who died while serving their country since 9/11.

It is my pleasure to announce that The American Legion Riders of South Carolina will conduct a 600-mile state run to benefit the Legacy Scholarship fund on April 14-15. From here in Columbia to Greenville to Little River, veterans and their friends will traverse this great state on motorcycles to raise awareness and money for those who have already paid a tremendous price for all of us the loss of a parent.

I would also like to acknowledge another great loss from right here in the Palmetto State — John F. Baker, Jr., of Northeast Richland. As an Army Private First Class, John Baker saved the lives of eight of his fellow soldiers, killed 10 enemy combatants and knocked out six machine gun bunkers after his unit was ambushed in Vietnam on November 5, 1966.

For his actions, John Baker earned a well deserved Medal of Honor and the gratitude of a grateful nation. John retired as a master sergeant but continued to be active in promoting veterans causes until he passed away on January 20.

Major General Gene Rogers of Columbia said “We lost a brave and courageous American hero. The country is a better place because he lived in it.” General Rogers, I couldn’t agree more.

And America is a better country, because of the service of thousands of other sons and daughters of South Carolina. Again, The American Legion thanks you for all that you do for God and country.

God Bless you and God Bless America.

Upon conclusion of his address, the Honorable Fang Wong and his escort party retired from the Chamber.

**JOINT ASSEMBLY RECEDES**

The purposes of the Joint Assembly having been accomplished, the PRESIDENT announced that under the terms of the Concurrent Resolution the Joint Assembly would recede from business.

The Senate accordingly retired to its Chamber.

**THE HOUSE RESUMES**

At 12:48 p.m. the House resumed, the SPEAKER in the Chair.

Rep. J. R. SMITH moved that the House do adjourn pending ratification, which was agreed to.

**RATIFICATION OF ACTS**

At 1:10 p.m. the House attended in the Senate Chamber, where the following Acts and Joint Resolutions were duly ratified:

 (R128, H. 3470) -- Reps. Pitts, Knight, Loftis and Toole: AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 44‑53‑50, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE PROHIBITION AGAINST USING, SELLING, OR MANUFACTURING CLEANING AGENTS CONTAINING PHOSPHATES, SO AS TO INCLUDE HOUSEHOLD AND COMMERCIAL LAUNDRY DETERGENTS AND HOUSEHOLD AND COMMERCIAL DISHWASHING DETERGENTS IN THIS PROHIBITION; TO FURTHER SPECIFY CRITERIA FOR AND TYPES OF CLEANING AGENTS EXEMPT FROM THIS PROHIBITION; TO AUTHORIZE THE SALE OF PROHIBITED CLEANING AGENTS THAT ARE IN A RETAILER’S INVENTORY ON JULY 1, 2012; AND TO STAGGER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROHIBITION OF THESE CLEANING AGENTS.

 (R129, H. 3630) -- Reps. Bedingfield, Loftis, Hardwick and McLeod: AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 61‑4‑720, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE SALE OF WINE BY A LICENSED WINERY LOCATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA, SO AS TO ELIMINATE THE REQUIREMENT THAT A MAJORITY OF THE JUICE USED IN THE WINE BE DERIVED FROM FRUIT OR BERRIES GROWN IN THIS STATE; AND TO AMEND SECTION 61‑4‑730, RELATING TO THE SALE OF WINE BY PERMITTED WINERIES, SO AS TO ALLOW A PERMITTED WINERY THAT PRODUCES AND SELLS WINE PRODUCED ON ITS PREMISES TO SELL THE WINE, UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, AT RETAIL, WHOLESALE, OR BOTH, TO CLARIFY THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH A PERMITTED WINERY IS NOT DEEMED A WHOLESALER OF WINE AND MUST USE A LICENSED SOUTH CAROLINA WHOLESALER TO DELIVER OR SHIP WINE TO LICENSED RETAILERS, AND TO PROVIDE PENALTIES.

 (R130, H. 4108) -- Rep. Allen: AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 5‑31‑2510, 6‑11‑2510, 33‑49‑1410, 58‑5‑1110, 58‑27‑2510, AND 58‑31‑510, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO DEFINITIONS USED IN PROCEDURES GOVERNING THE TERMINATION OF ELECTRIC AND NATURAL GAS SERVICE UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES FURNISHED BY A MUNICIPALITY, SPECIAL PURPOSE DISTRICT OR PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT, ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, PUBLIC UTILITY, PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY, OR ELECTRIC UTILITY, SO AS TO CHANGE THE DEFINITION OF “SPECIAL NEEDS ACCOUNT CUSTOMER” TO INCLUDE CUSTOMERS WHO SUFFER FROM ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE OR DEMENTIA.

 (R131, H. 4125) -- Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Committee: A JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE REGULATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL, RELATING TO MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR LICENSING CHIROPRACTIC FACILITIES, DESIGNATED AS REGULATION DOCUMENT NUMBER 4180, PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 23, TITLE 1 OF THE 1976 CODE.

 (R132, H. 4434) -- Reps. White, Gambrell and Thayer: AN ACT TO AMEND ACT 794 OF 1966, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE PENDLETON DISTRICT HISTORICAL AND RECREATIONAL COMMISSION OF ANDERSON, OCONEE, AND PICKENS COUNTIES, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2012, THE NAME OF THE PENDLETON DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM MUST BE THE “BART GARRISON AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM OF SOUTH CAROLINA”.

 (R133, H. 4627) -- Reps. Merrill, Stavrinakis, Harrison, King, Knight, Williams, Jefferson, Johnson, Sabb, Munnerlyn, Anderson, G.A. Brown, Allison, Horne, Agnew, Gambrell, McCoy, Ryan, Mack, Gilliard, Sottile, Hardwick, Hearn, Weeks, Simrill, Pope, Delleney, Dillard, Sandifer, Erickson, Herbkersman, Brantley, Crosby, Daning, Brady, Quinn, Spires, Frye, Pitts, Southard, Butler Garrick, Pinson, Tallon, Long, Parker, Hodges, Whitmire, Anthony, Bannister, Putnam, Edge, Allen, Thayer, Funderburk, Lucas, Cobb‑Hunter, Howard, Harrell, Bowers, Patrick, Whipper, Bowen, White, Murphy and R.L. Brown: A JOINT RESOLUTION TO SUSPEND THE AUTHORITY OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL FOR ALL DECISIONS SUBSEQUENT TO 2007 PERTAINING TO THE NAVIGABILITY, DEPTH, DREDGING, WASTEWATER AND SLUDGE DISPOSAL, AND RELATED COLLATERAL ISSUES IN REGARD TO THE USE OF THE SAVANNAH RIVER AS A WATERWAY FOR OCEAN‑GOING CONTAINER OR COMMERCE VESSELS, IN PARTICULAR THE APPROVAL BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE APPLICATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION IN NAVIGABLE WATERS PERMIT FOR DREDGING OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PORTION OF THE SAVANNAH RIVER, BECAUSE THE AUTHORITY TO ISSUE SUCH A PERMIT HAD BEEN GRANTED TO THE SAVANNAH RIVER MARITIME COMMISSION BY ACT 56 OF 2007 AND THE ACTIVITIES AUTHORIZED BY THIS PERMIT COULD PRESENT IMMINENT AND IRREVERSIBLE PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS; AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT RETAINS AUTHORITY OVER OTHER MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE SAVANNAH RIVER.

 (R134, H. 4636) -- Reps. Tallon, J.R. Smith, Hixon, Pope, Delleney, Corbin, Bedingfield, G.R. Smith, Lucas, Hamilton, Stringer, Ryan, Owens, Horne, Pinson, Thayer, Putnam, Murphy, Pitts, Spires, Brannon, Chumley, Lowe, Allison, Anthony, Quinn, Bingham, Ballentine, Bannister, Hearn, D.C. Moss, Hardwick, Parker, Cole, Forrester, Limehouse, Gilliard, Sottile, McEachern and Frye: AN ACT TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING ARTICLE 16 TO CHAPTER 3, TITLE 23 SO AS TO ESTABLISH THE BLUE ALERT PROGRAM THAT IS DESIGNED TO APPREHEND A SUSPECT THAT ALLEGEDLY KILLS, SERIOUSLY INJURES, OR ABDUCTS A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER BY RAPIDLY DISSEMINATING INFORMATION REGARDING THE SUSPECT.

 (R135, H. 4723) -- Reps. Loftis, Corbin, Allen, Dillard, Hamilton, Henderson, Nanney, G.R. Smith, Stringer, Willis and Bannister: AN ACT TO AMEND ACT 848 OF 1954, RELATING TO THE CREATION OF THE BEREA WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT IN GREENVILLE COUNTY, SO AS TO ADD TWO ADDITIONAL MEMBERS TO THE GOVERNING COMMISSION AND PROVIDE FOR STAGGERING THEIR TERMS.

**RETURNED WITH CONCURRENCE**

The Senate returned to the House with concurrence the following:

H. 4308 -- Rep. Daning: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME THE INTERSECTION LOCATED AT THE JUNCTION OF UNITED STATES HIGHWAY 17A AND THE SANGAREE PARKWAY IN BERKELEY COUNTY "LANCE CORPORAL TODD ALVIN BENJAMIN INTERSECTION" AND ERECT APPROPRIATE MARKERS OR SIGNS AT THIS INTERSECTION THAT CONTAIN THE WORDS "LANCE CORPORAL TODD ALVIN BENJAMIN INTERSECTION".

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 1:20 p.m. the House, in accordance with the motion of Rep. HORNE, adjourned in memory of Martha Simmons, to meet at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow.

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