**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE CAPTAIN CHARLES F. GANDY, JR., VFW POST 6734 OF GREENVILLE COUNTY, AND TO CONGRATULATE THE POST’S MEMBERS, UPON THE OCCASION OF THEIR SIXTY‑FIFTH ANNIVERSARY.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to learn that the Captain Charles F. Gandy, Jr., VFW Post 6734 will celebrate sixty‑five years of helping veterans in the Upstate on April 23, 2011; and

Whereas, in 1945, a group of World War II veterans decided to organize a VFW post under the leadership of John and Wyle Culbertson, and they met in the basement of the Phyllis Wheatly Center to plan; and

Whereas, on April 8, 1946, the Captain Charles F. Gandy, Jr., VFW Post 6734 was organized with forty‑six charter members and Commander J. H. Lendhart as the post’s first elected leader; and

Whereas, Captain Charles Gandy was a native of Charleston whose infantry company was the first to enter the city of Lucca, Italy, where a three‑day battle ensued with German snipers during World War II; he made the ultimate sacrifice for his country when he gave his life on October 12, 1944, on the Gothic Line in the Battle of Italy; and

Whereas, VFW Post 6734 proudly named the post after this gallant soldier and courageous leader and has continued his legacy, by producing the first African‑American state commander for the South Carolina VFW and by being named the All State Post from 2008 to 2010; and

Whereas, Post 6734 provides an honor guard to perform military burial rites for over thirty veterans each year, assists veterans and widows in filing benefit claims, and sells Buddy Poppies every November to assist disabled veterans, widows, and orphans of deceased veterans; and

Whereas, every year, Post 6734 holds the Voice of Democracy contest and has issued several certificates, awards, and bonds to participating school students, and the Post sponsors a junior girls’ softball team; and

Whereas, from the original forty‑six members, the membership of Post 6734 has grown to over two hundred fifty, and the Commander’s Ball begun in 1962 has become a much‑anticipated annual gala; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives commend the community service of the Charles F. Gandy, Jr., VFW Post 6734 and wish these veterans many more years of continued success and service to their community as they celebrate their sixty‑fifth anniversary. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor the Captain Charles F. Gandy, Jr., VFW Post 6734 of Greenville County, and congratulate the post’s members, upon the occasion of their sixty‑fifth anniversary.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Captain Charles F. Gandy, Jr., VFW Post 6734.

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