**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE MEMBERS AND VETERANS OF THE USS *COWPENS* (CG63), UPON THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS COMMISSIONING AT THE CHARLESTON NAVAL BASE, AND TO WELCOME THEM TO THE CITY OF COWPENS FOR THE MIGHTY MOO FESTIVAL AND REUNION.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that crew members of the USS *Cowpens* (CG63) will be attending The Mighty MOO Adopt‑a‑Crew Dinner in the City of Cowpens on Friday, June 17, 2011; and

Whereas, in its thirty‑fourth year of celebration, the Mighty MOO Festival and Reunion occurs every year over Fathers Day weekend to honor the crewmen who have served on board the two vessels named for the city’s battle site, the USS *Cowpens* (CG63) and the USS *Cowpens* (CVL25); and

Whereas, the citizens of Cowpens developed a fellowship with the crewmen who served aboard these two naval vessels named for the famous Revolutionary battle fought at the “cow pens” in South Carolina; and

Whereas, on January 17, 1781, the experienced, yet untrained, militia and three hundred Colonial soldiers met and defeated the superior force of British Army troops. American Brigadier General Daniel Morgan’s knowledge of the enemy and his use of the “double envelopment” maneuver provided victory in less than an hour of battle, giving the American Army the courage to route the British from South Carolina to Yorktown; and

Whereas, the first vessel so named, the small‑aircraft carrier the USS *Cowpens* (CVL25), commissioned in May 1943, participated in the raids on Wake Island, Okinawa, Formosa, and the Philippines; the invasion of the Gilberts and Marshalls; the Marianas campaign; and in the great Battle of Leyte Gulf. It gained renown during World War II as the first ship to enter Tokyo Bay after the United States dropped the atomic bomb, and in 1959 it was stricken from the Naval Vessel Register and subsequently sold for scrap; and

Whereas, dubbed “The Mighty MOO,” the Ticonderoga Class guided‑missile cruiser the USS *Cowpens* (CG63), assigned to the George Washington Strike Group, was commissioned in Charleston in March 1991, is currently based in Japan for maintenance at the Yokosuka Naval Base, and recently received the 2010 Project Good Neighbor Award for Medium Sea Command to honor the crew’s efforts to establish and restore hope in the community; and

Whereas, the more than three hundred guests expected for The Mighty MOO Adopt‑a‑Crew Dinner include current veterans and their families from all over the country, a large segment of the Cowpens’ community, Naval ROTC students and officers from the University of South Carolina in Columbia, and two crew members from the USS *Cowpens* (CG63) in Japan; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the efforts of the City of Cowpens to honor the veterans of the two USS *Cowpens*, and in this the year of the seventieth anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, we wish them a memorable celebration. 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 members and veterans of the USS *Cowpens* (CG63), upon the twentieth anniversary of its commissioning at the Charleston Naval Base, and welcome them to the City of Cowpens for the Mighty MOO Festival and Reunion.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the members of the USS *Cowpens* (CG63).

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