**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR WILLIAM VAN RICHARDSON, JR., OF SUMTER COUNTY FOR ACHIEVING THE ELITE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT, AND TO COMMEND HIM FOR HIS HARD WORK AND DETERMINATION IN REACHING THIS SIGNIFICANT GOAL.

Whereas, the members of the House of Representatives are pleased to learn that William Van “Will” Richardson, Jr., will receive the rank of Eagle Scout in a ceremony to be held on June 10, 2011; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives takes great pride in acknowledging the laudable achievements of young people, and among those youthful accomplishments that command the greatest respect is the attaining of the rank of Eagle Scout, an award granted only to some five percent of all Boy Scouts; and

Whereas, since the establishment of the award in 1912, the standards of this performance‑based achievement, the highest rank in scouting, have been staunchly maintained; and

Whereas, born at Shaw Air Force Base on June 8, 1994, while his father was stationed there as a pilot in the United States Air Force, Will is the son of Bill and Linn Duffie Richardson; and

Whereas, previously active as a Cub Scout and a member of Boy Scout Troop 305 for four years, Will was chosen for membership in the Boy Scout honor society, Order of the Arrow, and serves as chapter chief of the Iswa Chapter among many other previous leadership roles, such as assistant senior patrol leader, patrol leader, assistant patrol leader, and chaplain’s aide; and

Whereas, a sophomore at Laurence Manning Academy, Will plays varsity football and soccer and has been elected by his classmates to serve as student‑body president for the coming year; and

Whereas, an active member of First Presbyterian Church of Sumter, he has served as a lay reader, represents the youth on the Youth Committee, and has participated in numerous local mission projects; and

Whereas, for his Eagle Scout service project, he landscaped and renewed the grounds of the Greenhouse Shelter in Sumter County, which serves as a temporary home for homeless, displaced, or runaway youth between the ages of ten and seventeen; and

Whereas, he raised about a thousand dollars in donations and some six hundred dollars in materials and organized over 40 volunteers who performed almost two hundred fifty hours of service to mulch and landscape beds with multi‑seasonal bulbs, bushes, and trees; to clear a parking area; and to weed and till the volleyball area; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are delighted that Will Richardson has joined the ranks of astronauts, Nobel Prize winners, movie and sports celebrities, and numerous elected officials by earning this coveted award, and they are grateful for the pride and recognition he has brought to his community. 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 William Van Richardson, Jr., of Sumter County for achieving the elite rank of Eagle Scout, and commend him for his hard work and determination in reaching this significant goal.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to William Van Richardson, Jr.

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