**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CELEBRATE THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION, WHICH TOGETHER ENUMERATE OUR UNALIENABLE RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES, AND TO PROCLAIM FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2012, AS “LIBERTY DAY”IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, our rights and liberties are rooted in the cherished documents of our nation, the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution, which set forth the principles on which our great country is based; and

Whereas, during the Constitutional Convention of 1787, James Madison’s Virginia Plan became the foundation of the new American Constitution, replacing the Articles of Confederation and establishing our present form of government; and

Whereas, a leading architect of the Constitution, James Madison also served in the United States House of Representatives from 1789 to 1797; and

Whereas, during his time in the United States House of Representatives, James Madison introduced several amendments to the Constitution to safeguard individual rights that became known as the Bill of Rights; and

Whereas, we as Americans enjoy our freedom and the rule of law through these documents created by our Founding Fathers; and

Whereas, it is appropriate to proclaim the sixteenth day of March as Liberty Day because it is the birthdate of Founding Father James Madison, who went on to serve as the fourth President of the United States; and

Whereas, the rich culture and history of the United States of America can be sustained as long as each generation maintains an understanding of, and commitment to, the principles of our founding documents; and

Whereas, it is fitting and proper for the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives to pause in their deliberations in recognition of Liberty Dayand to pay tribute to the remarkable achievements and extraordinary vision of our Founding Fathers and the rights, privileges, and responsibilities they secured for the people of the United States of America. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, celebrate the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution, which together enumerate our unalienable rights and liberties, and proclaim Friday, March 16, 2012, as “Liberty Day” in South Carolina.

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