**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR JAMES EDWARD LLOYD OF THE MONTFORD POINT MARINES AND TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND APPRECIATION OF A GRATEFUL STATE AND NATION FOR HIS SACRIFICE AND SERVICE DURING WORLD WAR II AND FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DESEGREGATION OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS.

Whereas, with deep gratitude, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives honor, on behalf of all South Carolinians, the great sacrifice that the men and women of the United States Armed Forces make for the ideals of liberty and justice so richly enjoyed in this nation; and

Whereas, James Edward Lloyd served with pride in the Montford Point Marines, the men who broke the color barrier in the last branch of the military to admit African Americans by order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1941; and

Whereas, after the President issued his order the United States Marine Corps quickly adopted its own policy of racial segregation, and by the following year, a separate training camp for African Americans was built at Montford Point, about five miles from all‑white Camp Lejeune near Jacksonville, North Carolina; and

Whereas, although these Marines were discouraged by the news that they would not be permitted to engage in combat, some did eventually see combat duty, first as reinforcements and later in some of the bloodiest battles of the Pacific, but they were never fully recognized for this service; and

Whereas, unlike better known military units that helped end racial segregation, the Montford Point Marines had been overlooked until General James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps sought recognition of their service, and President Barack Obama signed legislation awarding them the Congressional Gold Medal; and

Whereas, among only a few hundred of the surviving members of the twenty thousand men who served as Montford Pointers, James Edward Lloyd will be among those awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, one of the nation’s highest honors, at a ceremony on June 27, 2012, in the nation’s capital, and he will be among the honorees at a commemorative ceremony hosted by the Commandant of the Marine Corps and Mrs. James F. Amos the following day; and

Whereas, a native of Beaufort, Mr. Lloyd, now eighty‑nine years old, attended the historic Robert Smalls School in Beaufort, and with his beloved wife, Vernell Jamison Lloyd, he resides today in Houston, Texas; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are honored to remember the sacrifice and service of this noble son of the Palmetto State, James Edward Lloyd. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina, by this resolution, recognize and honor James Edward Lloyd of the Montford Point Marines and express the profound appreciation of a grateful State and nation for his sacrifice and service during World War II and for his contributions to the desegregation of the United States Marine Corps.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to James Edward Lloyd.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑