**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO SUPPORT PLANS TO CREATE THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR MUSEUM ON THE WATERFRONT IN MOUNT PLEASANT, SOUTH CAROLINA, OVERLOOKING THE CITY OF CHARLESTON, WHICH WILL SERVE AS A PERMANENT PLACE OF HONOR AND RECOGNITION FOR THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BEEN AWARDED THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF RECOGNITION FOR THEIR SACRIFICE AND SERVICE; AS A PLACE TO INSPIRE CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS ABOUT THE IDEALS OF COURAGE, PATRIOTISM, LEADERSHIP, AND SACRIFICE; TO HELP THEM UNDERSTAND THE MEANING AND PRICE OF FREEDOM; AND TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO EMBRACE THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AS CITIZENS IN A DEMOCRACY.

Whereas, the nation is commemorating the sesquicentennial of the creation of the Medal of Honor in 2013; and

Whereas, the State of South Carolina is home to a considerable population of military members and families, both active and retired, and recognizes the commitment and sacrifices that they have made and continue to make; and

Whereas, South Carolina welcomes even more active duty or retired military and their families among its millions of annual visitors, many of them drawn to its numerous cultural and historical attractions; and

Whereas, the State of South Carolina cherishes its military heritage and its continued and proud support of our military communities, and the men and women who serve and have served our country in the United States Armed Forces; and

Whereas, the citizens of the State of South Carolina desire to promote the principles and objectives of courage, patriotism, leadership, service, and sacrifice among the people of this State and the nation; and

Whereas, an opportunity exists for the State of South Carolina to promote those principles and at the same time recognize the men and women of the nation’s military who have made the ultimate sacrifice in armed conflicts throughout the nation’s history; and

Whereas, twenty‑nine South Carolina residents and another four natives of the State have been awarded the highest level of recognition for their service to our country as members of the United States Armed Forces, the Medal of Honor; and

Whereas, the State of South Carolina is the final resting place for nineteen Medal of Honor recipients; and

Whereas, the State of South Carolina and the Patriots Point Authority have announced their desire to develop a national Medal of Honor Museum to preserve and present the extraordinary stories of individuals who have reached the highest level of recognition in service to the nation; and

Whereas, the public‑private partnership that will design, fund, build, and maintain the state‑of‑the‑art facilities for the orientation, comfort, and education of visitors will preserve, protect, and acquire key artifacts and archival materials related to the Medal of Honor and its recipients and help to create a tangible link between visitors and the heroes who have sacrificed for the nation; and

Whereas, the national Medal of Honor Museum will present exhibits, programs, and services designed to engage diverse audiences and enhance their understanding of and appreciation for the stories of the Medal of Honor, of Medal of Honor recipients, and of the values associated with the Medal; and

Whereas, the Museum will raise awareness of and support for the work of the Medal of Honor Society and the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation, including its Character Development Program. Education programs, onsite and through outreach, will focus on the values and ideals of the Medal of Honor  courage, patriotism, leadership, and sacrifice; and

Whereas, through an Institute of Leadership, the Museum has the opportunity to combine the legacies of the Medal of Honor and its recipients with the resources of the Museum to help leaders in the business, education, and government communities from across the State and around the nation make decisions that will have a positive impact on their organizations’ success; and

Whereas, changing exhibits, special programs, and seasonal offerings by the Museum will help optimize visitors’ length of stay and encourage repeat visitation, thus helping to ensure the success of Patriots Point as a premier destination; and

Whereas, the national Medal of Honor Museum will be designed to appeal to the broadest possible audience, exciting and inspiring visitors of all ages, learning styles, objectives, and physical abilities. Exhibits, programs, and activities will meet the highest standards for preservation, conservation, and curatorial care of the artifacts, taking full advantage of scholarship, technology, and learning techniques; and

Whereas, the Museum will help visitors make personal and emotional connections to recipients of the Medal of Honor and the events that prompted their sacrifices; and

Whereas, this national Medal of Honor Museum will serve not only as a tribute to the men and women of the nation’s Armed Forces who have served throughout the country’s history, but to the State of South Carolina, which will serve as its permanent host. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, support plans to create the national Medal of Honor Museum on the waterfront in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, overlooking the City of Charleston, which will serve as a permanent place of honor and recognition for those individuals who have been awarded the highest level of recognition for their sacrifice and service; as a place to inspire current and future generations about the ideals of courage, patriotism, leadership, and sacrifice; to help them understand the meaning and price of freedom; and to encourage them to embrace their responsibilities as citizens in a democracy.

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