**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR CORPORAL WILLIAM “KYLE” CARPENTER, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS (RET.), OF LEXINGTON ON RECEIVING THE MEDAL OF HONOR, THE NATION’S HIGHEST AWARD FOR VALOR; TO THANK HIM FOR HIS FAITHFUL MILITARY SERVICE; AND TO COMMEND HIM FOR HIS HEROIC ACTIONS WHILE SERVING A TOUR OF DUTY IN AFGHANISTAN.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, on behalf of all South Carolinians, acknowledge with deep appreciation the great sacrifice that the men and women of the United States Armed Forces make for the ideals of freedom and justice, which are so richly enjoyed in this nation; and

Whereas, Lexington’s Corporal William “Kyle” Carpenter, United States Marine Corps (Ret.), stands high among those servicemen and women so honored by their country; and

Whereas, on June 19, 2014, President Barack Obama will award Corporal Carpenter the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry while serving as an automatic rifleman with Company F, 2d Battalion, 9th Marines, Regimental Combat Team 1, 1st Marine Division (Forward), I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), in Helmand Province, Afghanistan; and

Whereas, the award comes to him for his courageous actions on November 21, 2010, during a combat engagement in Afghanistan supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. At that time, then‑Lance Corporal Carpenter with his own body shielded a fellow Marine from a grenade explosion, thus saving his comrade’s life while suffering extensive wounds that nearly took his own; and

Whereas, Corporal Carpenter, only the eighth living recipient to be awarded the Medal of Honor for actions in Iraq or Afghanistan, with his family will join the President at the White House to commemorate his example of selfless service; and

Whereas, born in Flowood, Mississippi, on October 17, 1989, Kyle Carpenter graduated from Batesburg’s W. Wyman King Academy in 2008. In February 2009, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps at Recruiting Station Columbia and later that same year completed his basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island; and

Whereas, due to his wounds from the grenade attack in Afghanistan, Kyle Carpenter was medically retired in July 2013 as a corporal. He is currently a full‑time student at the University of South Carolina in Columbia; and

Whereas, in recognition of his exemplary military service, Corporal Carpenter previously has been awarded the Purple Heart Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon. Additional awards and decorations include the Navy Unit Commendation, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with one bronze campaign star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon with one bronze star, North Atlantic Treaty Organization Medal ISAF for Afghanistan, and Rifle Sharpshooter Badge; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly counts it a great privilege to salute Corporal Kyle Carpenter, and the members with one voice offer their grateful thanks to Almighty God for the service and sacrifice of this heroic son of liberty. 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, recognize and honor Corporal William “Kyle” Carpenter, United States Marine Corps (Ret.), of Lexington on receiving the Medal of Honor, the nation’s highest award for valor; thank him for his faithful military service; and commend him for his heroic actions while serving a tour of duty in Afghanistan.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Corporal William “Kyle” Carpenter, United States Marine Corps (Ret.).

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