**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR LIEUTENANT COLONEL WESLEY FRANKLIN WALKER OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD (RETIRED) FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO OUR STATE AND NATION AND TO EXTEND BEST WISHES FOR CONTINUED SUCCESS AND FULFILLMENT IN THE YEARS TO COME.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate, on behalf of all South Carolinians, acknowledge with deep appreciation the service rendered by the men and women of the United States Armed Forces in support of the ideals of freedom and justice, which are so richly enjoyed in this nation; and

Whereas, Lieutenant Colonel Wesley Franklin Walker of the South Carolina Army National Guard (Retired) stands high among those servicemen and women so honored by their country; and

Whereas, born in Rock Hill to Brigadier General Marshall and Bertha Walker, Frank Walker attended Neely’s Creek Boy Scout Troop 132, where he earned his Eagle Scout badge; and

Whereas, in preparation for his career, in December 1969 he earned a bachelor’s degree in industrial management from Clemson University and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Infantry. In January 1970, he reported for active duty at Ft. Benning, Georgia, where he completed the Army’s Infantry Officer’s Basic Course. That same year, he earned his wings as an Army Rotary Wing Pilot; and

Whereas, the young officer was assigned to the Republic of South Vietnam as an OH‑SA scout pilot and then redeployed to Hawaii, where he was reassigned to “F” Troop of the 4th Air Calvary. Upon returning to the United States, he was assigned to Fort Jackson, where he met his wife, Lieutenant Kathie Eichelsbacher. They were married in 1976 and continue to live in Rock Hill; and

Whereas, Frank became president and CEO of Walker Electric Company, a business founded by his father. In 1979, he joined the South Carolina Army National Guard as an aviator and served as the logistics officer until his retirement; and

Whereas, highly respected by his peers, Frank Walker is the second‑highest decorated retired Army Guardsman in South Carolina. His many honors include the Distinguished Service Cross, Army Distinguished Service Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross with Two Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Medal with V Device, Air Medal with Thirty Awards, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with V Device, Vietnam Service Medal with Three Bronze Stars, Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, and South Carolina Meritorious Service Medal; and

Whereas, in 1972, then First Lieutenant Wesley Franklin Walker reached a high point in his military career: he was presented with the Distinguished Service Cross for heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force while he was serving in Vietnam. His conspicuous gallantry, extraordinary heroism, and intrepidity at the call of duty were in the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflected great credit upon this country; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate takes great pleasure in saluting Lieutenant Colonel Wesley Franklin Walker, and the members with one voice offer their grateful thanks to Almighty God for the dedicated service of this courageous son of liberty. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and honor Lieutenant Colonel Wesley Franklin Walker of the South Carolina Army National Guard (Retired) for his many years of distinguished service to our State and nation and extend best wishes for continued success and fulfillment in the years to come.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Lieutenant Colonel Wesley Franklin Walker (Retired).

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