**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR RICHARD OTIS KNEECE, JR., FOR HIS NOTEWORTHY ACHIEVEMENTS IN BOY SCOUTS AND TO CONGRATULATE HIM UPON ACHIEVING THE CELEBRATED RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT, THE HIGHEST AWARD IN SCOUTING.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to learn that Richard Otis Kneece, Jr. of Troop 37 of the Indian Waters Council has successfully completed the requirements for the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout; and

Whereas, Richard is the son of Richard Otis Kneece, Sr. and Patricia Farr Kneece and the brother of three sisters: Mary Margaret, Anna, and Katie. A senior at A. C. Flora High School, he was recognized for his scholastic achievements by membership in the National Honor Society. He received the Spirit of the Falcon Award, an award given to a student who demonstrates superior overall contributions in the area of excellence in academics, leadership, contributions to the school, community service, and the demonstration of exemplary personal character. Richard also was awarded the Principal’s Award. This award is given to students who demonstrate excellence in academics, character, school involvement, leadership, community service, and athletics; and

Whereas, in school Richard is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Falcon Republicans, and the Flora Fishing Club. He also has been a member of the A. C. Flora football team and tennis teams and has participated in several musicals and vocal performances; and

Whereas, a devoted member of Shandon United Methodist Church, Richard has actively participated in youth activities and sings in the youth choir. He takes part annually in the youth mission project trip to Hollywood, South Carolina, where his church ministers to enrich the lives of those living in the Petersfield community; and

Whereas, during his years in Scouting, Richard was named to the Order of the Arrow, Scoutings National Honor Society. His Eagle project involved building bicycle racks for the children at Epworth Children’s Home, a place endeared to him through the mission work in which he has participated with his home church. He successfully passed his Eagle Boards in October 2014 and he will receive the rank of Eagle Scout officially at a special ceremony to be held at Shandon United Methodist Church in Columbia on February 22, 2015; and

Whereas, only seven percent of Boy Scouts complete the rigorous requirements to achieve the coveted rank of Eagle Scout. To earn the rank of Eagle Scout, a Boy Scout must demonstrate that he lives by the principles of the Scout Oath and Law in his daily life; he must demonstrate leadership to others in service projects helpful to any religious institution, any school, or his community; and he must earn a total of twenty‑one merit badges, actively serve in a position of responsibility within his troop for six months, take part in a Scoutmaster conference, and successfully complete an Eagle Scout board of review; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the timeless legacy of Scouting in America and take great pride in acknowledging the accomplishments of young South Carolinians like Richard Kneece who selflessly give of their time, talents, and energy to enrich their local communities and our State. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor Richard Otis Kneece, Jr. for his noteworthy achievements in Boy Scouts and congratulate him upon achieving the celebrated rank of Eagle Scout, the highest award in Scouting.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Richard Otis Kneece, Jr.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑