**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND THE SPIRIT OF ’45 UPSTATE FOR ITS OUTSTANDING WORK IN HONORING WORLD WAR II VETERANS AND IN CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF OUR “GREATEST GENERATION” AND TO MARK THE SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR II.

Whereas, in 2010, the United States Congress declared every second Sunday in August as “Spirit of ’45 Day.” Headquartered in San Diego, California, a national organization called Keep the Spirit of ’45 Alive has fostered special events each year. In 2013, in accord with national and state celebrations, Governor Nikki Haley proclaimed every second Sunday in August as “Spirit of ’45 Day” in South Carolina; and

Whereas, Spirit of ’45 Upstate, which first began in 2011 with a public ceremony at Travelers Rest City Hall, is now a multiday event honoring World War II veterans and celebrating the accomplishments of our “Greatest Generation,” including those who fought and the ordinary heroes who worked at home to aid the war effort; and

Whereas, making it even more significant, this year’s celebration also marks the seventieth anniversary of the end of World War II, the world’s deadliest conflict. V‑J Day (Victory Over Japan Day) came on August 14, 1945, a time when national unity was at a high point in this great country, perhaps the highest it has ever been; and

Whereas, last year, thirty living World War II veterans were recognized at Spirit of ’45 Upstate, which was also the winner of the American Association for State and Local History’s 2013 Award of Merit and which was named the model celebration for the State of South Carolina; and

Whereas, in 2015, the Spirit of ’45 Upstate main celebration will move to a new venue, the Younts Conference Center on the Furman University campus, because it has outgrown its previous venue once again; and

Whereas, the August 9 celebration will feature local speakers, a memory parade, exhibits of World War II artifacts, and more. Leading up to that event will be a USO‑style swing dance and costume contest and interviews with World War II veterans, as well as others who are willing to share memories of 1945. DVDs of these interviews will be archived at Upcountry History Museum and the History Museum of Travelers Rest; and

Whereas, sponsored by the Travelers Rest Historical Society and the City of Travelers Rest, with the cooperation of Honor Flight Upstate South Carolina and the Cecil D. Buchanan War Museum at American Legion Post 3 in Greenville, Spirit of ’45 Upstate is to be highly commended for its fine work in saluting our World War II veterans and in keeping the memory of their accomplishments and sacrifices fresh in the memory of today’s Americans; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives takes great pleasure in honoring the Spirit of ’45 Upstate and in encouraging all South Carolinians to attend and enjoy the family‑friendly events of the organization’s 2015 celebration. 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 commend the Spirit of ’45 Upstate for its outstanding work in honoring World War II veterans and in celebrating the accomplishments of our “Greatest Generation,” and mark the seventieth anniversary of the end of World War II.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to the Spirit of ’45 Upstate.

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