**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE JOHN BENDER MATTHEWS FOR HIS REMARKABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA AND TO SALUTE 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 John Bender Matthews of Troop 547 of the Pee Dee Area Council has successfully completed the prerequisites for the rank of Eagle Scout; and

Whereas, to merit 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 plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project 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, only about five percent of Boy Scouts complete these rigorous requirements to achieve the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout; and

Whereas, in the early 1900s throughout the British Empire, the Scout Movement began to form troops as a result of reading Lord Robert Baden‑Powell’s “Aids to Scouting,” written to train soldiers. In 1910, at the age of fifty‑three, Lord Baden‑Powell retired from a highly successful career as a scout in the British army to give his attention to this work; and

Whereas, as an outgrowth of the Scout Movement in England and with the endorsement of the Chief Scout of the World, Lord Baden‑Powell, the Boy Scouts of America was formed in 1910, and for more than a century it has shaped future leaders of America by combining educational activities with lifelong values and fun; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the legacy of Scouting in America and take great pride in acknowledging the achievements of young South Carolinians like John Bender Matthews 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, congratulate John Bender Matthews for his remarkable accomplishments in the Boy Scouts of America and salute 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 presented to John Bender Matthews.

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