**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO WELCOME THE NATIONAL COMMANDER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, THE HONORABLE DENISE H. ROHAN, TO SOUTH CAROLINA AND INVITE HER TO ADDRESS THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN JOINT SESSION IN THE CHAMBER OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AT 12:30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2018.

Whereas, from March 4 to March 7, 2018, the Honorable Denise Rohan, national commander of the American Legion, will pay a visit to the great State of South Carolina, a sojourn the South Carolina General Assembly trusts will be a pleasant one; and

Whereas, Denise Rohan was elected national commander of the two million member American Legion on August 24, 2017, in Reno, Nevada, during the ninety‑ninth national convention of the nation’s largest veterans organization. She is the first woman to be elected to the top position of the American Legion; and

Whereas, born in McGregor, Iowa, Mrs. Rohan lived in Elkader, Iowa, until leaving for the U.S. Army basic training in Fort McClellan, Alabama, in 1974. She served on active duty as a stock control and accounting specialist and repair parts specialist course instructor at Fort Lee, Virginia, until her honorable discharge in August 1976; and

Whereas, Denise’s father Joe Hulbert was a volunteer firefighter. Both of her parents were volunteer EMTs and active in their church and community. Learning from their parents, Denise and her two sisters have always given back to their church and communities in some way; and

Whereas, Denise has served the American Legion since 1984. While commander of Post 333 in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, she established Sons of the American Legion Squadron 333 and chartered Boy Scout Troop 333. She has also served as the department (state) commander of the Wisconsin American Legion; and

Whereas, she and her husband are both 2006 graduates of the National American Legion College and 2015 graduates of the Wisconsin American Legion College ‑ Basic Course. Both have gone on to serve as department (state) and national American Legion College facilitators; and

Whereas, Mrs. Rohan was employed with the University of Wisconsin Madison as the assistant bursar of student loans until her retirement in 2012. She managed the University of Wisconsin Madison, University of Wisconsin Green Bay, and University of Wisconsin Colleges’ one hundred twenty million dollar loan portfolio made up of approximately two hundred different federal, institutional, and state programs in compliance with all laws, regulations, and policy. She was responsible for the efficiency and design of the computerized student loan accounts receivable system; and

Whereas, she is a graduate of the Mount Senario College (AA) and The Collegiate Management Institute; and

Whereas, she served the Family Readiness Group as a civilian volunteer with the Wisconsin Army National Guard’s 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team and 1‑105th Cavalry Squadron. She also served with the 115th Fighter Wing, Wisconsin Air National Guard Airman, and Family Readiness Program. Her theme as national commander is “Family First”, and her fundraising project will provide temporary financial assistance to needy children of veterans and training for American Legion service officers; and

Whereas, she has been married to her husband Mike since 1976. Together, they have a son Nicholas, daughter‑in‑law Angie, and grandchildren, Sawyer and Isla. Mike is very active with the American Legion on both the state and national levels and is a past department adjutant. Nick and Sawyer are members of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 385, and Isla is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 385; and

Whereas, with more than 32,000 members in South Carolina, the American Legionis one of the most influential and prestigious organizations in the United States; and

Whereas, speaking before a joint session of the General Assembly is an honor reserved for leaders of national prominence and a privilege well merited by the Honorable Denise H. Rohan. 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, welcome the national commander of the American Legion, the Honorable Denise H. Rohan, to South Carolina and invite her to address the General Assembly in joint session in the chamber of the South Carolina House of Representatives at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 6, 2017.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Honorable Denise H. Rohan.

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