**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO WELCOME THE NATIONAL COMMANDER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, JAMES W. OXFORD, TO SOUTH CAROLINA, AND TO INVITE HIM TO ADDRESS THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN JOINT SESSION IN THE CHAMBER OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AT 12:30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2020.

Whereas, James W. “Bill” Oxford was elected national commander of the American Legion on August 29, 2019, in Indianapolis during the organization’s one hundred and first national convention of America’s largest veterans’ organization; and

Whereas, a native of Lenoir, North Carolina, Mr. Oxford is a life member and past commander of Post 29 in Lenoir, and served as commander of the North Carolina American Legion from 2010 to 2011; and

Whereas, he has demonstrated his incredible work ethic by being employed since he was a high school student, with most of his career choices within the maintenance and engineering field, and earning a bachelor’s degree in environmental studies, along with multiple safety and environmental certificates; and

Whereas, Mr. Oxford is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps, served in Vietnam during his initial enlistment, and worked diligently as an aviation electronic technician for the A-6 Intruder; and

Whereas, following his discharge from the Marine Corps as a Sergeant in 1970, Oxford joined the North Carolina National Guard, subsequently attending officer’s candidate school and transferring to the United States Army Reserve; and

Whereas, Oxford ultimately retired from his prestigious military career as a colonel after more than thirty-four years of service; and

Whereas, Mr. Oxford has served at every level of the American Legion and served as mayor and city council member of Cajah’s Mountain, North Carolina; and

Whereas, he is an active volunteer with several organizations, is a member of Masonic Lodge-York Scottish Rite, the North Carolina Army Retirees Council, and has volunteered as a coach, umpire, referee, and administrator in several youth athletic programs, including service as the public address announcer for the Post 29 American Legion Baseball team; and

Whereas, Mr. Oxford has been married to his wife Frances since 1967 and they have two children, Charles and Jackie, along with four grandsons, Isiah, Micah, Jaggar, and Dawson; and

Whereas, Mr. Oxford’s theme as national commander of The American Legion is “A Foundation for the Future” as the organization enters its second century of service; 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 James W. Oxford. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, welcome the national commander of The American Legion, James W. Oxford, to South Carolina and invite him to address the General Assembly in joint session in the chamber of the South Carolina House of Representatives at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4, 2020.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mr. James W. “Bill” Oxford.

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