**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 53‑3‑215 SO AS TO DESIGNATE THE MONTH OF JUNE OF EVERY YEAR AS “SALKEHATCHIE SUMMER SERVICE MONTH” IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, in 1978, John Culp and a group of forty high school and college‑aged United Methodist volunteers stepped into the lives of four families affected by some of the worst poverty in the United States of America. The team worked tirelessly for one week restoring dilapidated houses on the Sea Islands of South Carolina, and with just that one week of labor, the lives of these youth and the families they helped had been forever transformed; and

Whereas, now known as Salkehatchie Summer Service, this pioneering volunteer program brings together high school and college‑aged youth, adult community leaders, and persons of different cultures to improve the homes of needy families and to reach out to these families and one another in friendship; and

Whereas, over the course of four decades, this once small group of volunteers has expanded into more than fifty camps and two thousand campers every summer. The Salkehatchie Summer Service is an autonomous mission supported entirely by its participants, the communities it serves, and the United Methodist Church Conference of South Carolina. Now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Chapter 3, Title 53 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 53‑3‑215. The month of June of every year is designated ‘Salkehatchie Summer Service Month’ in South Carolina to promote this pioneering volunteer program that brings together high school and college‑aged youth, adult community leaders, and persons of different cultures to improve the homes of needy families and to reach out to these families and one another in friendship.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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