**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR DEPUTY TONY HANNON OF THE GREENVILLE COUNTY SHERIFFS’ OFFICE, WHO DISPLAYED EXCEPTIONAL COURAGE IN THE FACE OF DANGER WHILE IN THE LINE OF DUTY, AND TO CONGRATULATE HIM UPON RECEIVING THE SOUTH CAROLINA SHERIFFS’ ASSOCIATION MEDAL OF VALOR AWARD.

Whereas, on June 7, 2018, an individual suspected of being several weeks into an escalating violent crime spree was apprehended. He had started by committing several shopliftings, during which he stole beer and merchandise to support his growing drug habit. He had been identified as a suspect in no fewer than thirteen crimes in the days leading up to his eventual arrest, including motor vehicle thefts and robbery; and

Whereas, on the morning of June 7, 2018, the suspect stole a vehicle from the Spinx located at 1520 South Pleasantburg Drive in Greenville County. Unbeknownst to him, the vehicle was equipped with a tracking device. Initial uniform patrol deputies attempted to stop the suspect, but he fled in the vehicle. The incident drew the attention of the Sheriff’s Office Directed Patrol Unit, which had already tried to stop the suspect on numerous occasions in the past few weeks without any success; and

Whereas, through the use of the tracking device and the Sheriff’s Office Aviation Unit, the suspect and the vehicle were tracked to the Greenville Health System Hospital at 701 Grove Road. An attempt was made to block him in at an entrance to an underground parking lot; however, he used the vehicle as a battering ram, forcing his way out and, in the process, striking a deputy who was on foot; and

Whereas, Deputy Tony Hannon was in close proximity and heard the radio traffic as the suspect forced his way out of the garage and struck the deputy. Knowing that the suspect was continuing to escalate his crimes and knowing that letting him get away would allow the suspect to continue to prey upon the innocent citizens of Greenville County, Deputy Hannon committed himself to stopping the suspect from exiting the hospital grounds at all costs; and

Whereas, as the suspect cut through a parking lot and drove over several medians and grassy areas, he drove toward Deputy Hannon, who was waiting in his vehicle on a perimeter road. Deputy Hannon then accelerated and struck the vehicle the suspect was driving, head on. This action rendered the suspect’s vehicle useless. He attempted to flee from the vehicle, but, being injured, he was immediately surrounded by other deputies and subsequently arrested after a brief struggle; and

Whereas, during the collision, Deputy Hannon suffered injuries that briefly rendered him unconscious. He was treated on‑scene and later in the hospital. Without the selfless direct action taken by Deputy Hannon, there is no doubt that the suspect would have continued his violent crime spree; and

Whereas, Deputy Hannon displayed extraordinary bravery and decisive action and will, therefore, be presented with the prestigious South Carolina Sheriffs’ Association Medal of Valor Award on Thursday, January 24, 2019. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, honor Deputy Tony Hannon of the Greenville County Sheriffs’ Office, who displayed exceptional courage in the face of danger while in the line of duty, and congratulate him upon receiving the South Carolina Sheriffs’ Association Medal of Valor Award.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Deputy Tony Hannon.

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