**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR MARY WHYTE, ACCLAIMED AMERICAN ARTIST, AND TO CONGRATULATE HER FOR HER NATIONAL EXHIBITION, WE THE PEOPLE: PORTRAITS OF VETERANS IN AMERICA.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that Mary Whyte, author and artist whose watercolor paintings have earned international recognition, will launch the national exhibition of We the People: Portraits of Veterans in America at the City Gallery in Charleston on October 25, 2019; and

Whereas, an artist and author whose watercolor paintings have earned international recognition, Mary Whyte, along with her stunning works of art, has been featured in numerous publications in America and abroad, and she has been honored with The Portrait Society of America’s Gold Medal and the Elizabeth O’Neill Verner Award, the state’s highest honor in the arts; and

Whereas, We the People, a collection of fifty large‑scale watercolors, features the reintegration of current-day veterans from the military back into society and the workforce, one painting for each of the fifty states depicting veterans of all ages and every walk of life; and

Whereas, opening weekend of the exhibit and her accompanying book will include two premier concerts with the Charleston Symphony Orchestra, gallery tours, and brunch for one thousand people aboard the USS *Yorktown*; and

Whereas, the Patriot Art Foundation is a 501(c)(3) entity formed to assist in bringing the veterans to Charleston for the opening weekend festivities, October 25‑27, 2019, and to sustain the permanent, ongoing exhibition; and

Whereas, although the exhibition will tour to various venues across the country, the paintings will remain together permanently and on display to the public in the Charleston area in such a way as to create a national legacy and center that will honor and support veterans for generations to come; and

Whereas, because of the ardent tradition of patriotism in the State of South Carolina, the House of Representatives appreciates the honor bestowed on the State to be chosen to shelter the We the People watercolor exhibit; and

Whereas, the members of the House express profound gratitude to Mary Whyte for using her remarkable talent in such a beneficent manner in order to pay tribute to our nation’s extraordinary military veterans. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor Mary Whyte, acclaimed American artist, and congratulate her for her national exhibition, We the People: Portraits of Veterans in America.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mary Whyte.

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