**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO COMMEMORATE AND CELEBRATE THE COMMISSIONING CEREMONY OF THE USS CHARLESTON (LCS 18) TO BE HELD IN CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA ON SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2019.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are delighted to celebrate the commissioning of the United States Navy’s sixth ship named for South Carolina’s oldest city, Charleston, and wish to invite all citizens of the Palmetto State to revel along with them on this momentous occasion; and

Whereas, the USS Charleston is an Independence‑class littoral combat ship. It can reach speeds of forty to forty‑seven knots and travel up to four thousand three hundred nautical miles at the speed of twenty knots; and

Whereas, the ship accommodates a core crew of forty with room to include a thirty‑five mission crew. Boasting such aircraft as two MH‑60R/S Seahawks and one MQ‑8 Fire Scout, the Charleston is four hundred eighteen feet long, weighing between two thousand three hundred seven and three thousand one hundred four metric tons; and

Whereas, this beauty has been assigned to Littoral Combat Ship Squadron One and, upon commissioning, will be stationed in San Diego, California; and

Whereas, her motto appropriately is “While We Breathe, We Fight,” maintaining the link to her namesake city, which has a rich history of valor and glory; and

Whereas, with four .50 caliber guns, eleven cell missile launchers, and a BAE systems Mk 110 57 mm gun, she is well stocked to defend our great nation; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to celebrate the commissioning of the USS Charleston on Saturday, March 2, 2019 and are eager to hear of the gallantry that the men and women of this ship will surely exhibit. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, commemorate and celebrate the commissioning ceremony of the USS Charleston (LCS 18) to be held in Charleston, South Carolina on Saturday, March 2, 2019.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to all of the officers and crew who will serve our Palmetto State and our great nation as crew aboard the USS Charleston.

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