**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR AN OUTSTANDING GROUP OF SOUTH CAROLINA AIR NATIONAL GUARD AND SOUTH CAROLINA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES BY RECEIVING THE 2020 HIGHEST AWARDS FOR EXEMPLARY CHARACTER AND SERVICE AS MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA AIR AND ARMY NATIONAL GUARDS.

Whereas, both our nation and our State call upon the servicemen and women of the South Carolina Air and Army National Guards to defend and serve our country and State, both at home and abroad, in times of extreme emergency and need; and

Whereas, the strength of the South Carolina Air and Army National Guards is their personnel. Trained and prepared to meet any crisis, these servicemen and women have proudly served our country and State with honor and distinction. Currently, the South Carolina Army National Guard has more than 9,400 soldiers, and the South Carolina Air National Guard has more than 1,300 airmen; and

Whereas, amongst this group of dedicated patriots, a few are distinguished each year for their exemplary character and service. The 2020 award winners for the Air Guard are Airman of the Year, SRA Joshua D. Power; Non‑Commissioned Officer of the Year, Technical Sergeant David Melkersman; Senior Non‑Commissioned Officer of the Year, Senior Master Sergeant Marvin E. Bradford; First Sergeant of the Year, Master Sergeant Carl R. Clegg; SCANG Officer of the Year, Captain Joshua Rosecrans; and Barbara Livingston Air Guard Family of the Year, CMSgt Thomas McQueen and Family; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Army National Guard hosts an annual contest, the Best Warrior Competition, where individuals are evaluated on their combat soldier skills, including land navigation, physical fitness, marksmanship, a road march, and a series of knowledge‑based questions. This year’s winners are Soldier of the Year, Specialist (SPC) Jordan Allen; Non‑Commissioned Officer of the Year, Sergeant Kennith Wingard; and Warrant Officer of the Year, Chief Warrant Officer Two Kyle Zinn. Additional Army Guard awards are granted for meritorious service, and the 2020 award winners are Captain Joseph Varnin, who was presented with the Major General Dozier Award; Sergeant Brian Keith Jones, who was granted the Director’s Award; and Mrs. Sarah Hemmingway and Family, who were bestowed with the Barbara Livingston SCARNG Family of the Year Award; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly is extremely grateful for the service of the men and women of the South Carolina Air and Army National Guards and are especially pleased to recognize and pay tribute to the recipients of these outstanding awards. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, recognize and honor an outstanding group of South Carolina Air National Guard and South Carolina Army National Guard servicemen and women who have distinguished themselves by receiving the 2020 highest awards for exemplary character and service as members of the South Carolina Air and Army National Guards.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to each award winner.

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