**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR D. MURRAY PRICE OF LEXINGTON COUNTY FOR A LIFETIME OF SERVICE TO MANKIND IN HIS COMMUNITY, CHURCH, STATE, AND NATION; TO CONGRATULATE HIM ON THE OCCASION OF HIS NINETY‑NINTH BIRTHDAY; AND TO WISH HIM A JOYOUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND MANY YEARS OF CONTINUED HEALTH AND HAPPINESS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are delighted to learn that Murray Price will celebrate his ninety‑ninth birthday on February 24, 2020; and

Whereas, a living institution in his beloved Town of Lexington, Mr. Price has dedicated his life to faithful service to God; preservation of our nation, its democratic ideals, and values; development and growth of Lexington; and devotion to his family and friends; and

Whereas, after graduating from Lexington High School in 1940, he responded to the shocking attack on the United States Naval Base at Pearl Harbor by the Japanese Empire when he volunteered in August 1942 for duty in the United States Army Air Corps; and

Whereas, after completion of flight school training at Fort Jackson nine months later, Mr. Price was assigned as copilot of a ten‑man B‑24 bomber crew joining the air war in the Pacific Theatre and later became pilot and leader of his crew with members from ten different states; and

Whereas, the crew flew a total of forty missions over Japanese territory, including Iwo Jima, Truk, Marcus, the Bonins, Tarawa, and Kwajalein, and the bomber, named *Complete Miss*, was hit on fifteen consecutive bombing operations; and

Whereas, despite the continued onslaught of Japanese zero fighters, Mr. Price’s entire crew survived the war, and he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with Oak Leaf clusters, and two battle stars for his bravery and heroism. In recognition of his service in 2015, he received the Sergeant William Jasper Freedom Award from the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce and the Annual Military Veterans Award from the Blue Star Mothers in 2016; and

Whereas, upon his return to civilian life, he married his sweetheart, Frances Addy, and together they reared four fine children, David Bruce Price, Vickie Price Ettenger, Deborah Price Moye, and Gerald Murray Price; and, he was employed with PYA/Monarch, eventually becoming its executive vice president and CEO, he retired in 1984; and

Whereas, Mr. Price immersed himself in community service as a board and foundation member of the Lexington County Arts Association, YMCA of the Midlands, Lexington County Health Education Foundation, Crime Stoppers, Franke Home, Midlands Technical College, and Rotary Club. A leader among veterans, he also helped create the Honors Flight program to Washington, D. C.; and

Whereas, a devoted member of St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church in Lexington his entire life, he has served his church in many varied church positions; and

Whereas, in 2016, Newberry College conferred upon him the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters for his “service to the country, to the Church, and to the community”; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to honor this son of South Carolina in celebrating his ninety‑ninth birthday, and the members join with his family and friends in congratulating him on reaching this extraordinary milestone. 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 D. Murray Price of Lexington County for a lifetime of service to mankind in his community, Church, State, and nation; congratulate him on the occasion of his ninety‑ninth birthday; and wish him a joyous birthday celebration and many years of continued health and happiness.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to D. Murray Price.

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