**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2019 AS “NATIONAL GUARD DAY” IN SOUTH CAROLINA TO HONOR THE MANY SACRIFICES AND VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS THAT THE SOUTH CAROLINA NATIONAL GUARD MAKES TO PROTECT THE FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY, AND SECURITY OF OUR STATE AND NATION.

Whereas, the South Carolina National Guard is a community-based military organization that serves abroad in support of national defense and serves the Governor and citizens of South Carolina. Currently, the South Carolina Army Guard has more than nine thousand four hundred Soldiers, and the South Carolina Air Guard has more than one thousand three hundred Airmen; and

Whereas, during Hurricane Florence, the South Carolina National Guard came to the aid of the citizens of this great State. At the peak of operations, more than three thousand Soldiers and Airmen supported efforts to evacuate citizens near the coast and assisted with high water vehicle rescues, distribution of sandbags to protect infrastructure and critical roadways, security, route clearance, supply distribution, damage assessments, engineer support, and water purification. The South Carolina National Guard also protects the homeland, defending the skies over the National Capital Region, the East Coast air space, and along the Texas border; and

Whereas, since September 11, 2001, the South Carolina National Guard has deployed more than twenty‑five thousand Soldiers and Airmen in support of overseas contingency operations, and currently, more than three hundred Guard members are deployed to Kuwait, Afghanistan, Europe, and Colombia to defend freedom and build partnerships; and

Whereas, amongst a group of dedicated patriots, a few are distinguished each year for their exemplary character and service. This year’s award winners are Soldier of the Year, Specialist Chase Jones; Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year, Sergeant James McCants; Warrant Officer of the Year, Chief Warrant Officer Two Terrence Robinson; Major General Dozier Award recipient, Captain Jason E. Wagner; Director’s Award recipient, Sergeant First Class LeVar Curry; Barbara Livingston South Carolina Army National Guard Family of the Year, the Puckett Family; Airman of the Year, Airman First Class Jaxon D. Huettmann; Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year, Technical Sergeant Manley J. McKinley; Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year, Master Sergeant Avery F. Weaver; First Sergeant of the Year, Master Sergeant Daniel S. Tatum; Officer of the Year, Second Lieutenant Benjamin J. Douglass; and Barbara Livingston Air Guard Family of the Year, Master Sergeant Jeff Hopper and family; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly is extremely grateful for the dedicated service of the members of the South Carolina National Guard in protecting the citizens and traditional values of this nation, and the General Assembly deeply honors the memory of the sixteen South Carolina National Guard Soldiers since September 11, 2001 who have paid the ultimate price in support of combat operations. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, recognize Wednesday, March 20, 2019 as “National Guard Day” in South Carolina to honor the many sacrifices and valuable contributions that the South Carolina National Guard makes to protect the freedom, democracy, and security of our State and nation.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Major General Van McCarty, Adjutant General for South Carolina.

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