**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE SOPHIA MADELEINE SIMPKINS, A NATIVE OF GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN, UPON THE OCCASION OF HER NATURALIZATION TO BECOME A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that Sophia Madeleine Simpkins became a citizen of the United States of America on September 17, 2020; and

Whereas, born in Gothenburg, Sweden, on November, 20, 1984, Sophia attended Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg, where she majored in mechanical engineering before earning a master’s degree in naval architecture; and

Whereas, Sophia works with naval architecture and marine engineering services regarding yacht and vessel design and construction. She served as a product developer for Nimbus Boats, a Swedish manufacturer, before becoming a project manager for SSPA Sweden AB, a world leading maritime knowledge‑based company for innovative and sustainable maritime development. Today she serves as vice president of Horizon Naval Architects; and

Whereas, she arrived in the United States in October of 2013 on an H‑1B Visa, a nonimmigrant classification for people who perform services in a specialty occupation or for a United States Department of Defense cooperative research and development project; and

Whereas, Sophia worked in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where she met Craig Simpkins. They were married on November 10, 2016, and moved to South Carolina to be closer to his family before starting one of their own; and

Whereas, shortly after they were married, Sophia began application for a green card. Their son, Elias Emil Simpkins, was born on December 11, 2018. She officially became a United States citizen on September 17, 2020; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina is proud to welcome those like Sophia Simpkins who choose to come to these shores and stand shoulder to shoulder with us as citizens of this great nation, and is delighted that she also has chosen to make her home in the Palmetto State. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the South Carolina House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate Sophia Madeleine Simpkins, a native of Gothenburg, Sweden, upon the occasion of her naturalization to become a citizen of the United States of America.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Sophia Simpkins.

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