**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO WELCOME THE NATIONAL COMMANDER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, PAUL E. DILLARD, TO SOUTH CAROLINA, AND TO INVITE HIM TO ADDRESS THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN JOINT SESSION IN THE CHAMBER OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AT 12:30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2022.

Whereas, born in Whitesboro, Texas, Paul Dillard graduated from Whitesboro High School in 1965 and joined the United States Navy, serving from 1965 to 1969 during the Vietnam era. He received an honorable discharge as a Radarman 3rdClass Petty Officer, and after joining the Reserves for two years, he received a promotion to Radarman 2ndClass Petty Officer; and

Whereas, after his duty in the Navy, he attended Grayson County Junior College and East Texas State University. He worked several years in the manufacturing business as an engineer, plant manager, and director of manufacturing in Tennessee. He returned to Texas and served as a sales representative with Sherman Foundry and became the company’s airplane pilot. Mr. Dillard made a career change and entered the insurance business, specializing in employee benefits and later forming Dillard & Gann Insurance; and

Whereas, a paid‑up‑for‑life member of American Legion (AL) Post 265 in Lake Kiowa, Texas, he has actively served during more than forty years of Legion membership. He served as post commander, vice‑commander, adjutant, and judge advocate; coached American Legion baseball for over ten years; and served as Boys State chairman; and

Whereas, Mr. Dillard served the 4th District as commander and vice commander and served the Department as sergeant‑at‑arms and as chairman of Membership & Organization, National Security, Uniformed Organization, and the Board of Trustees, and he served on the Finance and the Long‑Range Planning committees. He was elected to the office of department commander for 2007‑2008; and

Whereas, he has served on the national level as alternate national executive committeeman, consultant to the Insurance, Distinguished Guest, and Children and Youth committees, as well as on the Media and Communications Council. He has served as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, the Veterans Employment & Education Commission, and the Legislative Commission. He was elected to serve as national vice commander for 2013‑2014; and

Whereas, together with his beloved wife, Donna, he has reared two fine sons, William and Jonathon, and they have blessed him with the affection of two adoring grandsons, Jarrett and Lukas; and

Whereas, Donna has been an active and dedicated member of the AL Auxiliary for several years and has served in numerous positions of leadership at all levels of the organization, including department president in 2017‑2018 and as a staff member of the Texas Bluebonnet Girls State, and she served as a member of the ALA Girls Nation and National Poppy, Education, and Legislative committees. 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, welcome the national commander of the American Legion, Paul E. Dillard, to South Carolina and invite him to address the General Assembly in joint session in the chamber of the South Carolina House of Representatives at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 9, 2022.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Paul E. Dillard

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