**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE LIEUTENANT COLONEL GEOFFREY R. “GEOFF’ PENLAND OF LEXINGTON UPON HIS PROMOTION TO THE RANK OF COLONEL IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD, TO COMMEND HIM FOR HIS TWENTY‑TWO YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED MILITARY SERVICE, AND TO EXTEND BEST WISHES FOR MUCH SUCCESS IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate is pleased to learn that on Sunday, March 6, 2022, Lieutenant Colonel Geoffrey R. “Geoff” Penland of Lexington officially was promoted to the rank of colonel in the South Carolina Army National Guard; and

Whereas, Colonel Penland direct‑commissioned in the United States Army Reserve as a first lieutenant in the Judge Advocate General’s Corps in December 2000. He was assigned to the 12th Legal Support Organization and attended the Judge Advocate Officer Basic Course; and

Whereas, in 2005, the then Captain Penland transferred to the South Carolina Army National Guard and was assigned to the 218th MEB. In 2007, he joined the 218th in its mission in Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. He was assigned as the legal advisor to the 201st Afghan National Army Corps and also served as the Command Judge Advocate for the 201st Afghan Regional Security Integration Command, a joint 600‑servicemember training group headquartered at Camp Blackhorse; and

Whereas, he was assigned to the 263rd AAMDC in 2010 and then completed his branch’s advanced course, was promoted to major, completed ILE, and was promoted to lieutenant colonel; and

Whereas, in 2017, the then Lieutenant Colonel Penland was assigned to Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ), where he has been a primary staff officer for the Joint Operations Center during declared states of emergency. While with JFHQ, he has completed the Staff Judge Advocate Course, the Domestic Operations Law Course, and NORAD’s Joint Domestic Operations Course; and

Whereas, in addition to his military service, Geoff Penland has served the State of South Carolina as staff counsel for the House Labor, Commerce & Industry Committee (1998‑2001); legal counsel to Speaker of the House David Wilkins (2001); and assistant clerk of the Senate/director of Senate research (2002‑2003). Further, he is presently director of state and federal government relations for Santee Cooper, where he has served since 2003; and

Whereas, in preparation for his career, in 1993 Geoff graduated from The Citadel with a bachelor’s degree in psychology, and in 1996 he received his Juris Doctor from the University of South Carolina School of Law; and

Whereas, he finds strength for his labors in the firm support of his family: his lovely wife, Jen; and his three children, Dean, Shane, and Libby; and

Whereas, grateful for the legacy of commitment and excellence that Colonel Geoffrey R. “Geoff” Penland has bestowed on this great State and nation, the members of the Senate take great pleasure in wishing him well as he continues to serve. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate Lieutenant Colonel Geoffrey R. “Geoff” Penland of Lexington upon his promotion to the rank of colonel in the South Carolina Army National Guard, commend him for his twenty‑two years of distinguished military service, and extend best wishes for much success in the days ahead.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Colonel Geoff Penland.

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