**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE COLONEL DAVID S. GAYLE, DIRECTOR OF JOINT OPERATIONS (J3) FOR THE SOUTH CAROLINA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT, TO SALUTE HIM FOR HIS THIRTY‑FOUR YEARS OF EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND THE GUARD, AND TO EXTEND BEST WISHES FOR CONTINUED SUCCESS AND FULFILLMENT IN THE YEARS TO COME.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, on behalf of all South Carolinians, acknowledge with deep appreciation the great sacrifice that the men and women of our armed forces make for the ideals of freedom and justice, which are so richly enjoyed in these United States of America; and

Whereas, David S. Gayle stands high among those servicemen and women so honored by their respective states and nation. Over the course of his career, Colonel Gayle has served with a distinction that has earned him the respect of all who have had the privilege of working with him. Most recently, he has served as director of Joint Operations (J3) for the South Carolina Army National Guard. This post has proved to be the culminating and concluding role of his three‑decade‑plus military career, which began in September 1987 and will close officially in September 2021; and

Whereas, prior to his appointment as director of Joint Operations (J3), he already had distinguished himself in a succession of positions of great importance and responsibility supporting the nation, the U.S. Army, and the South Carolina Army National Guard (SCARNG), over a period of twenty‑one years in the Active Guard Reserve Program; and

Whereas, as director of Joint Operations (J3), Colonel Gayle positively and directly influenced the SCARNG policy and programs for the Joint Operations Center. Through constant attention and concern for soldiers, he provided precise and focused recommendations to the governor of South Carolina, adjutant general, and director of joint staff on a daily basis. His carefully communicated advice reflected the depth and breadth of his considerable experience, and that advice has been instrumental in developing and writing plans that serve as the cornerstone for the mission conducted today. His work will continue to shape the future programs and policy of the SCARNG support to civilian agencies for many years following his retirement; and

Whereas, even under extreme constraints, David Gayle has always found time to improve his skills. In 2016, to further enhance his service, he graduated from the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, with a master’s degree in strategic studies. Moreover, his excellence has earned the Legion of Merit, Army Achievement Medal, Army Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, and Bronze Star Medal; and

Whereas, on the home front, Colonel Gayle and his wife, Ann Marie, have three children, Emily, Jacob, and Brady; and

Whereas, grateful for the legacy of consistent commitment and excellence Colonel Gayle has bestowed on this great State and nation, the General Assembly takes much pleasure in wishing him well as he enters retirement and trusts he will find much enjoyment in the more leisurely pace of the days ahead. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, congratulate Colonel David S. Gayle, director of Joint Operations (J3) for the South Carolina Army National Guard, upon the occasion of his retirement, salute him for his thirty‑four years of exceptionally meritorious service in the United States Army and the Guard, and extend best wishes for continued success and fulfillment in the years to come.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Colonel David S. Gayle.

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