**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE SERVICE OF THE JAMES L. HAMMONS DETACHMENT 939 OF THE MARINE CORP LEAGUE, OF AIKEN COUNTY, AND TO THANK ITS MEMBERS FOR THEIR DEDICATION TO UPHOLDING THE IDEALS OF AMERICAN FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY.

Whereas, as we approach Memorial Day, it is altogether fitting and proper to remember the enormous debt and gratitude we owe to our veterans who gave their lives in the defense of freedom and pursuit of peace. The members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the officers and members of the James L. Hammons Detachment 939 of the Marine Corps League who have steadfastly served the United States of America with honor through military service and sacrifice; and

Whereas, the National Marine Corps League was chartered by Congress in 1937, with the mission of providing support and assistance to Marines, former Marines, their families, and to the community; and

Whereas, the James L. Hammons Detachment 939 in Aiken County was formed in 1996 to fulfill the mission within the context of service to the Aiken community. At present, the Detachment has approximately eighty‑six active members ranging in age from 24 to 83; and

Whereas, their past military service, loyalty, and *esprit de corps* are constantly present in the community by providing the highly regarded Honor Guard at funerals for deceased Marine Corps League members, awarding scholarships to Aiken County high school seniors who have participated in JROTC, participating in numerous civic programs, and organizing local charity events. In addition, Detachment 939 worked diligently with the Aiken leaders to establish a memorial for veterans in Aiken County. This memorial, Veteran’s Park, was opened in 1999; and

Whereas, in addition to all of their other community service activities, Detachment 939 organizes the Aiken County Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies each year and was the longtime organizer of the Aiken Memorial Day Parade until 2015 when the duties were handed over to the Aiken County Jaycees; and

Whereas, having recently suffered the challenging loss of five of its members at the end of 2020, including the Commandant Larry Frelin and Senior Vice Commandant Dick Schreck, one trustee, and two other highly valued members, Detachment 939 was forced to go to “general quarters” and emerged proud to announce that Colonel Claude H. Davis III was elected as the new commandant; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are thankful for the ongoing community involvement and individual dedication of the Marines of Detachment 939, the hallmarks of an honorable citizen‑servant. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor the service of the James L. Hammons Detachment 939 of the Marine Corps League, of Aiken County, and thank its members for their dedication to upholding the ideals of American freedom and democracy.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Commandant Claude H. Davis III of the James L. Hammons Detachment 939 of the Marine Corps League.

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