**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THOMAS VAN VLEET FOR HIS NOTEWORTHY ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA AND TO CONGRATULATE HIM UPON ACHIEVING THE PRESTIGIOUS RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT, THE HIGHEST AWARD IN SCOUTING.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to learn that Thomas Van Vleet of Troop 2 of the Palmetto Council successfully passed his Eagle Scout Board of Review and thus completed the requirements for the rank of Eagle Scout; and

Whereas, the son of Ryan and Katherine Van Vleet, this Spartanburg High School junior is on the leadership team of his high school’s marching band, is a community YoungLife leader, and is part of the high school’s video team whose responsibilities include filming and streaming sporting events, school productions, and graduations; and

Whereas, during his years in Scouting, Thomas has held many positions in his troop, working his way up to the Senior Patrol Leader; and

Whereas, for his Eagle project, Thomas Van Vleet constructed two picnic tables for the Vic Bailey Subaru Bike Park on the Mary Black Foundation Rail Trail in Spartanburg as a way to provide respite for bike riders; and

Whereas, to earn the rank of Eagle Scout, a Boy Scout must demonstrate that he lives by the principles of the Scout Oath and Law in his daily life; he must plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project helpful to any religious institution, any school, or his community; and he must earn a total of twenty‑one merit badges, actively serve in a position of responsibility within his troop for six months, take part in a Scoutmaster conference, and successfully complete an Eagle Scout board of review; and

Whereas, only five percent of Boy Scouts complete these rigorous requirements to achieve the coveted rank of Eagle Scout; and

Whereas, in the early 1900s throughout the British Empire, the Scout Movement began to form troops as a result of reading Lord Robert Baden‑Powell’s “Aids to Scouting,” written to train soldiers. In 1910, at the age of fifty‑three, Lord Baden‑Powell retired from a highly successful career as a scout in the British army to give his attention to this work; and

Whereas, as an outgrowth of the Scout Movement in England and with the endorsement of the Chief Scout of the World, Lord Baden‑Powell, the Boy Scouts of America was formed in 1910, and for more than a century it has shaped future leaders of America by combining educational activities with lifelong values and fun; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the legacy of Scouting in America and take great pride in acknowledging the accomplishments of young South Carolinians like Thomas Van Vleet who selflessly give of their time, talents, and energy to enrich their local communities and our State. 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 Thomas Van Vleet for his noteworthy achievements in the Boy Scouts of America and congratulate him upon achieving the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout, the highest award in Scouting.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Thomas Van Vleet.

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