**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT KEVIN S. THOMAS, STATE COMMAND CHIEF, JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS, FOR THE SOUTH CAROLINA AIR NATIONAL GUARD, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT; TO SALUTE HIM FOR NEARLY THIRTY YEARS OF EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AND THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD; AND TO EXTEND BEST WISHES FOR CONTINUED SUCCESS AND FULFILLMENT IN THE YEARS TO COME.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, 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, Chief Master Sergeant Kevin S. Thomas stands high among those servicemen and women so honored by their respective states and nation; and

Whereas, over the course of his career, Chief Thomas has served with a distinction that has earned him the respect of all who have had the privilege of working with him. For the past five years, he has served as state command chief for the South Carolina Air National Guard (SCANG) and for the last year was dual‑hatted as the South Carolina adjutant general’s senior enlisted advisor. These posts proved to be the culminating and concluding roles of his almost three‑decade career in the United States Air Force and SCANG, a long service and an honorable one; and

Whereas, Chief Thomas enlisted in the United States Air Force in August 1992. During his time on active duty, he was stationed at Kleine Brogel Air Base, Belgium, as a custodial agent and at Davis‑Monthan Air Force Base, Tucson, Arizona, where he served as a security response team leader. In 1996, Chief Thomas enlisted in the South Carolina Air National Guard. During his time at the 169th Security Forces Squadron (SFS), he served in several critical roles, including fire team leader, squad leader, and unit career advisor. While in the 169th SFS, he deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom to Southwest Asia in support of the Global War on Terrorism, for which he was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with valor. Chief Thomas also deployed in support of Operation Noble Eagle to Seymour‑Johnson Air Force Base, Goldsboro, North Carolina. He served as human resource advisor for the 169th Fighter Wing. Moreover, Chief Thomas previously served as superintendent for the 169th Mission Support Group, McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina; and

Whereas, in his civilian capacity, he is an award‑winning medical device sales executive and serves his community in numerous capacities. He is co‑founder and board chair of the Midlands STEM Institute, a public charter school in Winnsboro, and he also serves as co‑chair of the Save‑A‑Leg, Save‑A‑Life Upstate South Carolina Chapter. Additionally, he is a site leader with Salkehatchie Summer Service, which provides warmer, safer, and drier homes for the underprivileged; and

Whereas, grateful for the legacy of consistent commitment and excellence Chief Thomas has bestowed on this great State and nation, the House takes much pleasure in wishing him well as he enters retirement from his military service 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:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate Chief Master Sergeant Kevin S. Thomas, state command chief, Joint Force Headquarters, for the South Carolina Air National Guard, upon the occasion of his retirement; salute him for nearly thirty years of exceptionally meritorious service in the United States Air Force and the Air National 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 Chief Master Sergeant Kevin S. Thomas.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑