**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR OFFICER KYLE SKEELS OF THE CHARLESTON POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR HIS SWIFT AND COMMENDABLE HEROISM IN SAVING A LIFE REGARDLESS OF THE DANGER TO HIS OWN PERSONAL SAFETY.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives value the dedication and sacrifice made daily by first responders in the Palmetto State, like Charleston Police Officer Kyle Skeels, to protect our citizens and keep them from harm; and

Whereas, on the evening of January 20, 2022, an individual in crisis called his family members to tell them that he planned to take his own life by jumping from the North Bridge; and

Whereas, when family members alerted authorities to this danger, officers from the Charleston and North Charleston Police departments were dispatched to the North Bridge; and

Whereas, Officer Skeels, who has been with the Charleston Police Department for two years, was first to arrive on the scene and sighted the individual at the top of the bridge looking over the side. Officer Skeels followed what he had been taught in Crisis Intervention Training: respect the wishes of persons in crisis, and try to talk to them first. When a person makes an attempt to harm himself, however, close the distance, and try to preserve his life; and

Whereas, when Officer Skeels attempted to talk to the individual, he advised the officer to stay back or he would jump. Officer Skeels agreed and again tried to talk to him; and

Whereas, moments later, the individual began to climb over the railing in an apparent attempt to jump, so Officer Skeels ran toward him, grabbed him, and physically pulled him back over the railing to safety; and

Whereas, the individual in crisis, a veteran of the United States military, was taken to safety to a Veterans Administration hospital; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives deeply appreciates the bravery and quick action on the part of Officer Skeels to save the life of a military veteran. 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 Officer Kyle Skeels of the Charleston Police Department for his swift and commendable heroism in saving a life regardless of the danger to his own personal safety.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Charleston Police Officer Kyle Skeels.

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