**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR JOSEPH DESKEVICH III, OF AIKEN 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 Joseph Deskevich III, of Troop 115 has successfully completed the requirements for the rank of Eagle Scout; 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 about 5% 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 a century it has shaped future leaders of America by combining educational activities with lifelong values and fun; and

Whereas, Joseph has been active in Scouting at St. Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church Troop 115 since 2011, having spent well over 100 nights camping and backpacking, and he has hiked over 90 miles all over South Carolina. In working toward becoming an Eagle Scout, Joseph earned forty-three merit badges in skills such as soil conservation, fishing, hiking, computer programming, and oceanography among many others; and

Whereas, he has shown exceptional leadership by performing as a patrol leader, a senior patrol leader, a troop guide, and as an instructor teaching advanced skills. As a leader, he prioritized community service projects including providing senior citizens groceries at ACTS, providing holiday meals to “shut-in” seniors at the Aiken Senior Life Center, acting as an usher at mass at St. Mary’s during the pandemic, replacing flags for fallen soldiers and veterans at St. Mary’s cemetery, helping the American Red Cross gather and ship supplies and provide evacuation assistance during two hurricanes, and providing maintenance assistance at the Aiken Child Advocacy Center; and

Whereas, to recognize his tremendous achievement, Joseph will have his Eagle Court of Honor ceremony on June 18, 2022, at the Knights of Columbus in Aiken, South Carolina; 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 Joseph Deskevich III, 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 Joseph Deskevich III, of Aiken 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 presented to Joseph Deskevich III.

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