**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE 122ND ENGINEER BATTALION OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD UPON THE CELEBRATION OF ITS SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY, TO COMMEND THE OVER SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY SOLDIERS, THEIR FAMILIES, RETIREES, AND VETERANS OF THIS HISTORIC AND COURAGEOUS BATTALION ON THEIR DEDICATED AND SELFLESS SERVICE TO THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND THIS GREAT NATION, AND TO EXTEND BEST WISHES FOR ITS CONTINUED SUCCESS IN THE YEARS TO COME.

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate is pleased to learn that the 122nd Engineer Battalion is celebrating its seventy-fifth anniversary on July 18, 2021 in Edgefield, South Carolina; and

Whereas, the 122nd Engineer Battalion, an element of the 51st Infantry Division, was allotted to the South Carolina National Guard on July 5, 1946, federally recognized on March 12, 1947, and stationed in Edgefield, South Carolina; and

Whereas, the battalion has a long history of serving in the defense of the nation. During World War II, it served in England, Tunisia, Sicily, Naples, Rome, the North Apennines, and the Po Valley and was also recognized by the French government with the Croix de Guerre; and

Whereas, from 1985 through the 1990s, the battalion participated in overseas deployments for training; the expansion of road building operations; and the construction of school buildings, medical clinics, and infrastructure. These missions took place in Panama, Ecuador, Honduras, Belize, and Albania, as well as Anchorage, Alaska. In 1999, the battalion received the Joint Meritorious Service Medal for its work with Joint Task Force‑Bravo in Honduras; and

Whereas, on March 3, 2003, the battalion was the first unit in the South Carolina National Guard deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. It was also the first South Carolina National Guard unit to earn the Valorous Unit Award; and

Whereas, when not engaged in overseas mobilizations, the battalion has been called to State Active Duty to assist in recovery from natural disasters and other weather events, including hurricanes, snow storms, floods, tornados, and wildfires. The battalion was awarded the Governor’s Unit Commendation for its service during Hurricane Hugo, Hurricane Mitch, and Winter Storm Pax; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate greatly appreciate the dedication and commitment of the 122nd Engineer Battalion of the South Carolina Army National Guard to defending and serving the State of South Carolina and this great nation. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate the 122nd Engineer Battalion of the South Carolina Army National Guard upon the occasion of its seventy-fifth anniversary, commend the over seven hundred fifty soldiers, their families, retirees, and veterans of this historic and courageous battalion on their dedicated and selfless service to the State of South Carolina and this great nation, and extend best wishes for its continued success in the years to come.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the 122nd Engineer Battalion, Edgefield, South Carolina.

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