**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR SOUTH CAROLINA’S PURPLE HEART RECIPIENTS AND TO DECLARE THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA A PURPLE HEART STATE.

Whereas, the oldest military decoration in present use, the Purple Heart initially was created as the Badge of Military Merit by General George Washington in 1782; and

Whereas, the Purple Heart was the first American service award or decoration made available to the common soldier and is awarded specifically to any United States Armed Services member who is wounded or killed in combat with a declared enemy of the United States; and

Whereas, the mission of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, chartered by an Act of Congress, is to foster an environment of good will among the combat‑wounded veteran members and their families, promote patriotism, support legislative initiatives, and most importantly, to ensure we never forget the sacrifices of these Purple Heart veterans; and

Whereas, a large number of South Carolina residents have made the ultimate sacrifice in armed conflicts since 1898, and many citizens of the Palmetto State have been awarded the Military Order of the Purple Heart for wounds received in combat; and

Whereas, the State of South Carolina is home to a considerable population of highly decorated military members, both active and retired, and recognizes the commitment and increasing sacrifices military families are making. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, recognize and honor South Carolina’s Purple Heart recipients and declare the State of South Carolina a Purple Heart State.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Commander James Miller, South Carolina Department of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

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