**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY INLAND SEA FLOTILLA 12‑01 LAKE MARION FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF SOUTH CAROLINA AS THEY ENSURE SAFE BOATING ON LAKES MARION AND MOULTRIE AND THE UPPER COOPER RIVER.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives take great pleasure in commending the outstanding work performed by the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 12‑01 Lake Marion; and

Whereas, established by the United States Congress in 1939, the volunteer United States Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCGAUX) boasts a nationwide membership of approximately thirty thousand and adheres to its motto of *semper paratus*, always ready; and

Whereas, commissioned in July 2009 after two years of completing necessary requirements, the all‑volunteer Auxiliary Flotilla 12‑01 supports the United States Coast Guard in a number of ways, but principally focuses on boating safety; and

Whereas, Flotilla 12‑01 consists of privately owned boats outfitted and approved to Coast Guard Patrol boat requirements and highly trained teams, many with prior military service. These teams include a coxswain and crew members with extensive training, evaluation, and approval by Coast Guard Auxiliary operational standards, and qualified radio Watchstanders who monitor VHF marine radio channel 16 when boats are on patrol; and

Whereas, before going on patrol, Flotilla 12‑01 teams receive orders from the Coast Guard in Charleston, and a coxswain on board controls the boat and directs any action taken; and

Whereas, the USCGAUX Flotilla 12‑01 provides free boat safety inspections, schedules and teaches safe‑boating public education courses, and provides member training to all auxiliarists; and

Whereas, although Flotilla 12‑01 issues no citations as a result of the safety checks and does not report findings to any enforcement agency, a display decal is awarded to any vessel that passes the examination; and

Whereas, the auxiliary does not engage in law enforcement, but it will assist the Department of Natural Resources, which has the primary responsibility for search and rescue, whenever the state agency asks the USCGAUX for assistance in a search and rescue; and

Whereas, because drowning is the primary cause of death associated with recreational boating accidents and ninety percent of those who drown are not wearing life jackets, Flotilla 12‑01 stresses the importance for every boater to wear a personal flotation device while on the water and to complete and provide a float plan to a responsible person onshore; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives appreciates the skilled and sacrificial service of the members of USCGAUX Flotilla 12‑01 that enables citizens and visitors to enjoy the waterways of the Palmetto State in safety. 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 the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Inland Sea Flotilla 12‑01 Lake Marion for exceptional service to the citizens of South Carolina as they ensure safe boating on Lakes Marion and Moultrie and the upper Cooper River.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Flotilla Commander John Robert Owen.

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