**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR AND COMMEND ONE OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD’S MOST DECORATED AND DISTINGUISHED UNITS, THE 122ND ENGINEER BATTALION, FOR ITS SERVICE TO OUR STATE AND NATION, AND TO EXTEND BEST WISHES AND GODSPEED TO THE MEMBERSOF THIS BATTALION FOR A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION TO THEIR CURRENT ASSIGNMENT IN AFGHANISTAN AND SAFE TRANSPORT HOME.

Whereas, South Carolina is a state that has provided citizen soldiers to our nation’s armed conflicts since the Revolutionary War; and

Whereas, the National Guard and Reserve Units of the uniformed services through the years have been a vital part of our nation’s force structure, and, under the recent total force policy, the guard and reserve have been increasingly called upon to stand side‑by‑side with their active duty counterparts in responding to America’s military commitments around the world; and

Whereas, the South Carolina National Guard is widely respected throughout the United States as one of the best state national guards in our country, and one of its honored units is the 122nd Engineer Battalion; and

Whereas, the lineage of its Headquarters Company, located in Edgefield, includes five World War II campaign streamers for campaigns in Africa, Sicily, and Italy. The unit also was awarded the French Croix de Guerre with Silver Gilt Star during World War II; and

Whereas, following World War II, the unit was constituted as a battalion of the 51st Infantry Division, located in the western part of the State with a headquarters in Edgefield, South Carolina; and

Whereas, in 1953, it was designated as the 122nd Engineer Battalion, and has proudly served the State in a number of engineering projects to the benefit of the citizens of South Carolina; and

Whereas, it has also provided engineer support in much of Central America and South America in the later part of the Twentieth Century; and

Whereas, in February 2003, the battalion was ordered into active federal service for duty in Al Anbar Province, where it was awarded the Valorous Unit Award. The unit reverted to state control in February 2004, where it continued projects for our state’s citizens; and

Whereas, in 2005 and 2009, elements of the battalion deployed to Iraq; and

Whereas, the battalion was again ordered into federal service in the Global War on Terrorism for duty in Afghanistan in March 2013, where it serves proudly today. The unit’s mission is to train Afghan National Army (ANA) Engineer Units, perform construction and deconstruction operations, and conduct route clearance in order to support the drawdown of United States forces; and

Whereas, members of the battalion are found throughout South Carolina with home armories from the central part of the State to the Georgia border, with deploying soldiers from armories in Edgefield, McCormick, Batesburg, Graniteville, and Saluda; and

Whereas, the crescent on the unit’s crest represents the State Flag, and alludes to the Camden Rifle Company organized in 1812 and to prior service as an infantry unit before the unit’s current engineer combat designation. The blue color of its crest refers to the western part of the State where the unit calls home, representing the Savannah River and Edgefield County; and

Whereas, the battalion motto is “Ad Caput Venire” which translates to “To Bring To An End [Successfully]”; and

Whereas, the members of the General Assembly would like to pause in their deliberation to thank and give tribute to the members of this brave and distinguished unit for their dedication and service to South Carolina and to our nation’s defense of which the 122nd Engineer Battalion has been and remains an integral part. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the General Assembly, by this resolution, honor and commend one of the South Carolina Army National Guard’s most decorated and distinguished units, the 122nd Engineer Battalion, for its service to our State and nation, and extend best wishes and Godspeed to the members of this battalion for a successful conclusion to their current assignment in Afghanistan and safe transport home.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Commanding Officer of the 122nd Engineer Battalion.

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