**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO DECLARE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2014, “NATIONAL GUARD DAY” IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE MANY SACRIFICES AND VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS THE SOUTH CAROLINA NATIONAL GUARD MAKES TO PROTECT THE FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY, AND SECURITY OF OUR STATE AND NATION.

Whereas, with deep appreciation, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly honor, on behalf of all South Carolinians, the great sacrifice that the men and women of the South Carolina National Guard make for the ideals of liberty and justice so richly enjoyed in this nation; and

Whereas, the South Carolina National Guard has deployed more than eighteen thousand soldiers and airmen in support of overseas contingency operations since September 11, 2001, and currently there are more than six hundred members of the guard deployed to Kuwait and Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom; and

Whereas, in 2013, the South Carolina National Guard welcomed home more than one thousand soldiers and airmen from deployments and missions to Afghanistan, Kosovo, and Kuwait. These members of the guard are making positive transitions into civilian life, in part exemplified by the decrease in unemployment in the South Carolina National Guard, which is less than 3.8 percent, down from 16 percent two years ago; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly is extremely grateful for the service that the members of the South Carolina National Guard have given to protect the citizens and traditional values of this nation and deeply honor the memory of the sixteen soldiers in the South Carolina National Guard who have paid the ultimate price in support of combat operations since September 11, 2001. 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, declare Wednesday, March 19, 2014, “National Guard Day” in South Carolina and recognize and honor the many sacrifices and valuable contributions the South Carolina National Guard makes to protect the freedom, democracy, and security of our State and nation.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Major General Robert E. Livingston, Jr.

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