**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR COLONEL STEPHEN F. JOST FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, THE 20th FIGHTER WING AT SHAW AIR FORCE BASE, THE SUMTER COMMUNITY, AND THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA; TO THANK HIM FOR THE SACRIFICES HE HAS MADE FOR OUR COUNTRY; AND TO WISH HIM MUCH SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS AS HE BEGINS A NEW ASSIGNMENT AND CONTINUES AN ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER.

Whereas, Colonel Stephen F. Jost, Commander of the 20th Fighter Wing, Shaw Air Force Base, will be reassigned to the Pentagon to work with the Joint Chiefs of Staff on August 19, 2016; and

Whereas, Colonel Jost began his career with the Air Force in 1994 as a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy. He has held various F-16 flying positions and served with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, where he informed the chairman on future combat aircraft capability requirements. In addition to his undergraduate degree, Colonel Jost earned master’s degrees in aeronautical science technology, military arts and science, and national resources and strategy from, respectively, Embry Riddle University, the Air Command and Staff College, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National Defense University; and

Whereas, Colonel Jost has flown missions in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom, Southern Watch, Noble Eagle, and Republic of South Korea defense obligations. Prior to his current position, Colonel Jost served as commander of the 33rd Operations Group, F-35 Lightning II Integrated Training Center at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida; and

Whereas, Colonel Jost is the recipient of the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Aerial Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster, Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, and the Air Force Achievement Medal; and

Whereas, Colonel Jost has served as Wing Commander of the 20th Fighter Wing since May 2014. In this role, he has been responsible for providing combat-ready airpower and airmen to meet any and all challenges across the globe. He is the senior officer responsible for an 18-squadron wing and the mission readiness of wing-assigned personnel, administration of 17 wing staff agencies, the health and welfare of 7,900 airmen, soldiers, and civilians, and more than 8,000 family members. He supervises the support of over 21,000 local military retirees and administrative support for 24 geographically separated units across nine states; and

Whereas, Colonel Jost has been instrumental in improving upon strong and longstanding relationships between Shaw Air Force Base and the Sumter community. Colonel Jost initiated the P4 Initiative (Public: Public, Public: Private), where Shaw and Sumter partner for mutual support and endeavors such as local internships, mutual aid agreements, and more; and

Whereas, in addition, Colonel Jost is credited with building up the Honorary Commander Program in a manner which will keep this initiative true to its intended purpose. He restored the program to compliance with Air Force regulations, and initiated new members who are community leaders, educating them on military life and issues. In an effort to keep the Shaw Sumter Community Council engaged in community partnership initiatives, he directed quarterly tours for new members and kept the Sumter community engaged and involved with important issues and endeavors on Base; and

Whereas, Colonel Jost also provided support as Shaw Air Force Base hosted the very successful 2016 “Thunder Over the Midlands” Air Expo which coincided with the 75th Anniversary of Shaw Air Force Base, and loaned his personal leadership capabilities to the steering committee which organized the Palmetto State’s first and only “Base to Base” road race that spanned from McEntire Joint National Guard Base to Shaw Air Force Base in conjunction with Military Appreciation Month; and

Whereas, “Jester” is married to Kelly, who is retired from the Air Force and who shares his passion for enjoying the great outdoors, and the couple has two wonderful children, Jessica and Aaron; and

Whereas, the Senate is exceedingly grateful for the dedicated service, sacrifice, and hard work Colonel Jost has bestowed upon Shaw Air Force Base and the 20th Fighter Wing, and the members look forward to hearing of his continued success in the days to come. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the Senate, by this resolution, recognize and honor Colonel Stephen F. Jost for his outstanding service to the United States Air Force, Shaw Air Force Base, the Sumter community, and the State of South Carolina. The members of the Senate thank him for the sacrifices he and his family have made to defend our country and our many freedoms, and wish him much success and happiness as he begins a new assignment and continues his decorated career.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Colonel Stephen F. Jost.

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