**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR AND CONGRATULATE THE MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT AT PARRIS ISLAND OF THE OCCASION OF ITS ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY, AND TO EXPRESS INFINITE GRATITUDE FOR ITS PROFOUND IMPACT ON THIS STATE AND ITS INDISPENSABLE ROLE IN THE DEFENSE OF OUR NATION.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly are pleased to learn that the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island will celebrate its centennial anniversary on November 1, 2015; and

Whereas, an indispensable instrument in the birth of our nation and its security today, the United States Marine Corps traces its roots to November 10, 1775, when the Continental Congress established the first two battalions of Continental Marines to fight for American independence; and

Whereas, members of the South Carolina State Legislature, as well as those from the state’s national congressional delegation, were active in sponsoring, establishing, and securing funding for Naval Station Port Royal; and

Whereas, first present on Parris Island in 1891, Marines guarded the United States Navy Dry Dock to protect the interests of the United States Government; and

Whereas, on November 1, 1915, Parris Island became the first base commissioned exclusively to train United States Marines when it was officially designated a Marine Corps Recruit Depot, forever making Parris Island the “Cradle of the Corps”; and

Whereas, the untested installation was called on during World War I to provide combat forces to fight overseas and trained 46,202 new Marines to fight for our nation in Europe, and by the time America became engaged in World War II, Parris Island had greatly expanded, and it ultimately trained 204,509 new Marines to help secure defeat of the Axis powers; and

Whereas, on February 23, 1949, Parris Island became the first, and remains to this day the only, Marine Corps Recruit Depot to train women Marines entering into the Marine Corps; and

Whereas, throughout the conflicts in Korea and Vietnam, Parris Island trained more than 338,000 new Marines to support both wars; and

Whereas, since September 11, 2001, Parris Island has trained more than 223,200 new Marines to fight in the Global War on Terror; and

Whereas, in recent times, Parris Island has enhanced community relations in the Lowcountry by strengthening ties to adjacent city and county governments through joint emergency response exercises, memorandums of understanding for the providence of emergency services, and support of community relations through athletic events and festivals; and

Whereas, Parris Island serves as a host for additional training opportunities for adjacent military installations in neighboring counties and states, drawing units from the United States Army and Navy to partake in unique training exercises in the Lowcountry; and

Whereas, Parris Island continuously demonstrates a strong commitment to ensuring the continued protection of its rich natural resources, and is the steadfast steward of invaluable national historic resources, most notably its protection of the Charlesfort/Santa Elena National Historic Landmark, which pre‑dates the founding of Jamestown and Roanoke; and

Whereas, today Parris Island annually provides initial training to approximately 17,000 recruits, serving as the training ground for all male recruits living east of the Mississippi River and all female recruits living nationwide; and

Whereas, the expansion of Parris Island’s family day ceremony to welcome new recruits and families into the Marine Corps has increased tourism and commerce in the region and contributed $242.7 million to the state labor income and $525.7 million of economic output for fiscal year 2014; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly are profoundly grateful for the Marine Corps Parris Island’s outstanding legacy to the United States Marine Corps and continued support of and contributions to the State of South Carolina. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, honor and congratulate the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island om the occasion of its one hundredth anniversary, and express infinite gratitude for its profound impact on this State and its indispensable role in the defense of our nation.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to General Terry V. Williams, Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island.

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