**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO INVITE THE NATIONAL COMMANDER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, THE HONORABLE DALE BARNETT, TO ADDRESS THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN JOINT SESSION IN THE CHAMBER OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AT 12:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2016.

Whereas, Commander Barnett is a retired military officer. Commissioned in the U.S. Army in 1974 after his graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point, he has over twenty‑two years of commissioned service both stateside and overseas; and

Whereas, Commander Barnett served in the First Gulf War as a battalion executive officer in a mechanized infantry unit, earning a Bronze Star. His military decorations also include a Legion of Merit, combat infantryman, and three meritorious service medals. Commander Barnett retired in August 1996 as a Lieutenant Colonel and became a high school teacher and coach; and

Whereas, Commander Barnett is a National Board Certified Social Studies Teacher. He was selected as Creekside High School’s Teacher of the Year for the 2005‑2006 school year. He also coached varsity baseball, junior varsity basketball, and varsity boys and girls cross country during his teacher career. He led his cross country teams to win a region championship in 2010. Commander Barnett retired from teaching at the end of the 2011 school year; and

Whereas, Commander Barnett is an active American Legion member, and has served in many leadership positions. He was the Georgia State Commander in 2007‑2008 and has served as National Chairman for both the Membership and Post Activities Commission and as the National Economic Commission Chairman. He is active in a variety of youth development programs; and

Whereas, with more than 32,000 members in South Carolina, and 2.4 million members nationally, the American Legion is one of the most influential and prestigious organizations in the United States; and

Whereas, speaking before a joint session of the General Assembly is an honor reserved for leaders of national prominence. 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, invite the commander of the American Legion, the Honorable Dale Barnett, to address the General Assembly in joint session in the chamber of the South Carolina House of Representatives at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 2, 2016.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honorable Dale Barnett.

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