**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR MASTER CORPORAL MIKE GUTHINGER OF THE MYRTLE BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE TO THE FORCE AND TO HIS SURROUNDING COMMUNITY AND TO CONGRATULATE HIM ON BEING NAMED THE MYRTLE BEACH ROTARY CLUB 2011 OFFICER JOE MCGARRY MEMORIAL POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to learn that Master Corporal Mike Guthinger has been selected as the Myrtle Beach Rotary Club Officer Joe McGarry Memorial Police Officer of the Year for 2011; and

Whereas, during his twenty‑one years in law enforcement, the past thirteen being with the Myrtle Beach Police Department, Master Corporal Guthinger has distinguished himself as an outstanding police officer and member of the community; and

Whereas, he holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration and is a United States Coast Guard‑licensed captain. A senior operator with the Myrtle Beach SWAT, he serves as the team’s tactical medic. In addition, Mike Guthinger is a certified emergency medical technician and utilizes his medical skills on both SWAT and beach patrol. He has instructed officers in CPR, first aid, SWAT tactics, and active shooter while assuming leadership roles during SWAT operations; and

Whereas, presently assigned to the Beach Patrol Unit as a supervisor, Mike Guthinger works with two supervisor colleagues and ten senior officers to patrol the beach area from city limit to city limit twenty to twenty‑four hours a day. Using several four‑wheel‑drive vehicles, six water craft, and ATVs to perform patrol and rescue duties, the unit may experience as a normal day locating lost children, enforcing beach ordinances, making water rescues, administering first aid, and assisting boaters in distress. One of the unit’s most important duties is making day‑to‑day contact with visitors to the city and providing public awareness specific to water‑related emergencies; and

Whereas, when Mike Guthinger is off duty, he works as a scuba diver, repairing boats and anything else that requires underwater servicing. He also searches out and salvages sunken items; and

Whereas, Master Corporal Guthinger has contributed time and effort to the Junior Lifeguard Program and proven himself an exceptional instructor. A fine role model for his young students, he patiently teaches them lifesaving skills like CPR and water survival and helps them gain confidence, self‑discipline, and team‑building skills. He has assisted in this program with the Horry County Police for more than ten years and has headed the program for Myrtle Beach Police for the past two years, and his enrollment continues to grow; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives express their gratitude to Master Corporal Mike Guthinger for his dedicated service in protecting the citizens of Horry County and the State of South Carolina, as well as visitors to our great State, and congratulate him on receiving this well‑deserved award. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor Master Corporal Mike Guthinger of the Myrtle Beach Police Department for outstanding leadership and service to the force and to his surrounding community and congratulate him on being named the Myrtle Beach Rotary Club 2011 Officer Joe McGarry Memorial Police Officer of the Year.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Master Corporal Mike Guthinger.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑