**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR AND REMEMBER THE SUPREME SACRIFICE MADE BY SERGEANT MICHAEL J. BECKERMAN OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY WHILE HE WAS SERVING A TOUR OF MILITARY DUTY IN AFGHANISTAN, AND TO EXPRESS TO HIS FAMILY THE PROFOUND APPRECIATION OF A GRATEFUL STATE AND NATION FOR HIS LIFE, SACRIFICE, AND SERVICE.

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 United States Armed Forces make for the ideals of liberty and justice so richly enjoyed in this nation; and

Whereas, born on July 25, 1985, in Carbondale, Illinois, Sergeant Michael J. Beckerman was the son of Steven M. Beckerman of Sedgewickville, Missouri, and Lisa McGregor of Travelers Rest; and

Whereas, his daughter, Brianna Beckerman, of New Haven, Missouri, is two years old; and

Whereas, in 2009, he married Specialist Margaretta Gillis Beckerman of Clarksville, Tennessee, who was on duty in Afghanistan at the time of his death; and

Whereas, answering the call of his country to serve in Afghanistan with A Company, 2nd Brigade Support Troop Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Sergeant Beckerman deployed with his unit from Fort Campbell, Kentucky; and

Whereas, his exemplary military service earned him such military honors as the Army Commendation Medal two times, the Army Achievement Medal two times, the Army Good Conduct Medal two times, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, and the Iraq Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star; and

Whereas, on December 31, 2010, at the age of twenty‑five, Sergeant Michael J. Beckerman gave his life in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, after suffering wounds sustained during an improvised‑explosive‑device attack on his unit during combat operations; and

Whereas, there is no greater or braver sacrifice for a man to make for his country than to lay down his life; therefore, for his valor, Sergeant Beckerman received the Palmetto Patriot Award from former Lieutenant Governor André Bauer; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly is honored to remember the life and sacrifice of one of our nation’s brave sons and heroes, Sergeant Michael J. Beckerman. 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 remember the supreme sacrifice made by Sergeant Michael J. Beckerman of the United States Army while he was serving a tour of military duty in Afghanistan, and express to his family the profound appreciation of a grateful State and nation for his life, sacrifice, and service.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Sergeant Michael J. Beckerman.

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