**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME A PORTION OF BLUFF ROAD FROM THE INTERSECTION OF BLUFF ROAD AND LIBERTY STREET TO THE INTERSECTION OF BLUFF ROAD AND PENDERBORO ROAD IN MARION COUNTY THE “CHIEF WILLIE LEE SMITH HIGHWAY” AND ERECT APPROPRIATE MARKERS OR SIGNS AT THIS PORTION OF HIGHWAY THAT CONTAIN THE WORDS “CHIEF WILLIE LEE SMITH HIGHWAY”.

Whereas, Chief Willie L. Smith was born in Marion, South Carolina on August 12, 1949; and

Whereas, Chief Smith graduated from Johnakin High School in Marion County in 1967; and

Whereas, Chief Smith was drafted into the United States Army in 1969 and was sent to Fort Jackson in Columbia, South Carolina for his training. After his graduation, he was transferred to Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and

Whereas, Chief Smith was sent to Vietnam where he was assigned to the 1st Cavalry 2nd Brigade Aviation Platoon; and

Whereas, after returning from Vietnam, Chief Smith began his law enforcement career in 1971 with the Marion County Police Department. He was eventually promoted to lieutenant and chief of police and was also accepted into the FBI Academy; and

Whereas, Chief Smith attended Florence Darlington Technical College and Francis Marion University where he received a degree in criminal justice; and

Whereas, Chief Smith left the Marion Police Department and was hired by the Commissioners of Alcohol Beverage Act where he worked for five years, receiving many honors, including one of the highest awards for outstanding service to the South Carolina Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission; and

Whereas, during his service as police chief, Chief Smith organized and implemented many programs in Marion County, including a school resource officer program within the school district, the adopt a lunch buddy program, the police cadet program, midnight basketball for young men, voluntary curfew programs, and a grant program for community police officers; and

Whereas, Chief Smith was responsible for securing federal grants enabling the police department to purchase cars and upgrade office equipment. Chief Smith implemented a flexible hour program, allowing his police officers to attend college and continue their education; and

Whereas, Chief Smith received many recognitions and awards for his service as police chief, including the Best of Marion, the US Marshall service award, and various awards from Palmetto State Law Enforcement, the Marion Chamber of Commerce and others; and

Whereas, Chief Smith has proudly served his country, state, city and county through his many years of dedicated service. 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, request that the Department of Transportation name a portion of Bluff Road from the intersection of Bluff Road and Liberty Street to the intersection of Bluff Road and Penderboro Road in Marion County the “Chief Willie Lee Smith Highway” and to erect appropriate markers or signs along this road that contain the words “Chief Willie Lee Smith Highway”.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Chief Willie Lee Smith.

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