**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR SERGEANT DARREL DAWKINS OF THE WOODRUFF POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE PALMETTO STATE AND TO CONGRATULATE HIM ON BEING AWARDED THE PURPLE HEART AND MEDAL OF VALOR BY THE WOODRUFF POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR COURAGEOUS SERVICE IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, on behalf of all South Carolinians, acknowledge with deep appreciation the service rendered by the men and women of this great state’s police departments to the end that all citizens might dwell in peace and safety; and

Whereas, Sergeant Darrel Dawkins of the Woodruff Police Department stands high among those men and women who serve a grateful State as police officers; and

Whereas, on March 14, 2016, acting as team leader for a high‑risk search warrant, Sergeant Darrel Dawkins entered the residence at 549 Harrison Street with the intention of apprehending suspects and preserving evidence of drug manufacturing and distribution. Sergeant Dawkins was the first man into the residence and could immediately hear evidence of a small child’s presence; and

Whereas, as Sergeant Dawkins proceeded into the residence in an attempt to clear it, he was shot by the suspect in the back bedroom where the child was located. At great risk to his own life, Sergeant Dawkins exercised extraordinary restraint and did not return fire into the bedroom for fear of striking the child inside. The child was unharmed, and the suspect subsequently surrendered; and

Whereas, Sergeant Dawkins’ gallantry, heroism, and intrepidity at the call of duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Woodruff Police Department and reflected great credit upon him, his department, and the State of South Carolina; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives takes great pleasure in saluting Sergeant Darrel Dawkins, and the members with one voice offer their grateful thanks for the committed service of this courageous son of South Carolina. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, honor Sergeant Darrel Dawkins of the Woodruff Police Department for his dedicated service to the people of the Palmetto State and congratulate him on being awarded the Purple Heart and Medal of Valor by the Woodruff Police Department for courageous service in the line of duty.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Sergeant Darrel Dawkins.

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