**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE THE VALOR OF UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS LANCE CORPORAL MILLS PALMER BIGHAM FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR NATION, AND TO COMMEND HIS FAMILY FOR FOUNDING HIDDEN WOUNDS IN ORDER TO HELP WAR VETERANS SUFFERING FROM POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER.

Whereas, with deep appreciation, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly honor, on behalf of all South Carolinians, the profound 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, it was with great sadness that the members of the South Carolina General Assembly learned of the untimely death of United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal Mills Palmer Bigham on October 19, 2009, at the age of twenty‑three; and

Whereas, a graduate of A. C. Flora High School and a member of Bethel United Methodist Church in Forest Acres, Mills Bigham served with the United States Marine Corps, Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; and

Whereas, after two tours of duty in Iraq, Lance Corporal Bigham completed his voluntary enlistment in October 2008 and was suffering from depression and post traumatic stress disorder; and

Whereas, in January 2010, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs released alarming statistics on the severe effects of post traumatic stress disorder among veterans of the Armed Forces; and

Whereas, hoping to assist other veterans, Mills Bigham’s family founded Hidden Wounds, a nonprofit organization headquartered in Columbia to provide temporary counseling and support to sufferers of post traumatic stress disorder, depression, and traumatic brain injury until they can enter the Veterans Affairs health care system; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly are deeply grateful for the life and service of Lance Corporal Mills Palmer Bigham and for the dedicated work of his family through Hidden Wounds to care for soldiers returning to civilian life. 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 recognize the valor of United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal Mills Palmer Bigham for his service to our nation, and commend his family for founding Hidden Wounds in order to help war veterans suffering from post traumatic stress disorder.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Lance Corporal Mills Palmer Bigham.

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