**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE AND COMMEND THE COMRADES OF GRAY‑CORKERELL VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 3746 IN ROCK HILL UPON THE OPENING OF THEIR NEW POST HOME AND WISH THEM GODSPEED AS THEY CONTINUE TO CARE FOR THE NEEDS OF THEIR FELLOW COMRADES AND THEIR COMMUNITY.

Whereas, it is altogether fitting that the South Carolina Senate should pause to celebrate the grand opening of the new facility for the Gray‑Corkerill Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3746 at 1404 Crawford Road in Rock Hill on March 5, 2022; and

Whereas, originally established on September 8, 1938, by seventeen Black veterans who served in armed combat in foreign lands as members of the United States military, Post 3746 created a retreat for veterans who felt forgotten and for their family members to find a friendly face, a helping hand, and renewed hope. During this period of segregation, Black veterans who dedicated their lives to serving their country where not allowed to join white VFW posts when they returned home from their harrowing experiences and instead had to struggle to establish their own refuges. Post 3746 became that refuge in this time of racial disparity; and

Whereas, Gray‑Corkerell Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3746 has been home to members who served honorably in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and the Afghanistan War as part of the world’s greatest fighting force with incomparable dedication, commitment, and sacrifice; and

Whereas, with a purpose of providing support, service, and companionship for servicemen after their time in the military, VFW Post 3746 determined to extend their mission through charitable works in the community, serving as a meeting place for functions such as reunions, receptions, and birthday parties, and providing activities for youth, including sponsoring youth baseball teams and summer parties for neighborhood children; and

Whereas, additionally, the members of the post raise funds for disabled veterans by selling poppies throughout the community each November, as well as sponsoring other fundraising projects during the course of the year; and

Whereas, each member is required to undertake the VFW ritual to become part of the organization, standing before the altars of comradeship, pledging loyalty to their nation and each other. Generations have given life to the VFW ritual which solemnly binds young and old in brotherhood with the men and women who have fought for American on land, sea, and in the air; and

Whereas, the motto of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, “No one does more for Veterans,” is upheld to the highest level by the comrades of Gray‑Corkerell Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3746 individually and collectively; therefore, no one in the post need ever feel neglected or forgotten; and

Whereas, the Gray‑Corkerell Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3746 has remained committed for more than eighty years to the mission of the Veterans of Foreign Wars: “To foster camaraderie among American veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military, and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans.” Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate and commend the comrades of Gray‑Corkerell Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3746 upon the opening of their new post home and wish them Godspeed as they continue to care for the need of their fellow comrades and their community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the members of Gray‑Corkerell Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3746.

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