**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE MEMBERS OF THE INMAN AMERICAN LEGION POST 45 FOR A HUNDRED YEARS OF PROMOTING A CULTURE OF PATRIOTIC LOVE OF COUNTRY AND COMMUNITY AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF SERVICE TO VETERANS, SERVICE MEMBERS, AND THE INMAN COMMUNITY.

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate is pleased to learn that Inman American Legion Post 45 will celebrate its centennial anniversary on May 1, 2022; and

Whereas, organized in 1921, only three years after the national organization was chartered by the United States Congress, American Legion Post 45 began with twenty‑seven charter members from the American Expeditionary Forces of World War One; and

Whereas, the first meeting took place in a vacant store building in Inman and later moved to Mill Street. In 1941, thirty‑six Post 45 members, who had known the trying financial difficulties of The Great Depression of the 1930s, bought an old wooden church building on Bishop Street; and

Whereas, in spite of those difficult times, they were still dedicated to a vision and dream of keeping their organization alive in Inman. A local dentist, Dr. C. J. Miller, helped to keep Post 45 active, even paying the annual dues for many members; and

Whereas, in 1953, members Johnny Wilkins, Charlie Fox, Jim Everhart, and Paul High had the desire to start the Post 45 Baseball Program, and Jim became the Post’s first Athletic Officer, remaining in that position for more than fifty years; and

Whereas, Inman Post 45 plays all home games at the Jim Everhart Field named in his honor. Johnny Wilkins at age ninety‑six remains active at the post, and he takes up tickets and reads the sportsmanship code at most of the home games. Scholarships have been named in his honor, along with the late Paul High; and

Whereas, the beauty of the Post 45 home has been maintained over the years with the help of many members and the Auxiliary Unit: new flooring has been installed in the main hall and Auxiliary room, a new heating and air system added, renovations of both bathrooms and kitchen completed, and a new roof pitched. All of these improvements have been paid for, keeping the Post debt free; and

Whereas, one of the most vibrant Auxiliary units in South Carolina, the Inman Auxiliary boasted a record of one hundred fifty members in 2005 under the leadership of then President Doris Brown. In 1976, she had served as the president of the South Carolina American Legion Auxiliary; and

Whereas, with its strong leadership and more youthful members joining, Post 45 holds the promise of providing a continued impact to the Inman community and the Upstate of South Carolina with the original goals and principles of the American Legion in its 1919 charter: a patriotic veterans’ organization focusing on service to veterans, service members, and their communities; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate values the significant role of the Inman American Legion Post 45 in the Palmetto State, and the members look forward to a second century of service to the community and celebrate with the entire organization upon reaching this momentous milestone. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and honor the members of the Inman American Legion Post 45 for a hundred years of promoting a culture of patriotic love of country and community and congratulate them as they celebrate their one hundredth anniversary of service to veterans, service members, and the Inman community.

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