**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND THE LAKE MARION HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM FOR CAPTURING THE 2013 CLASS AA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE AND TO HONOR THE TEAM’S EXCEPTIONAL PLAYERS, COACHES, AND STAFF.

Whereas, fully prepared for the challenge, the Lake Marion High School boys basketball team crowned an outstanding season by capturing the 2013 Class AA State Championship title, defeating Newberry 91‑82 at the Colonial Life Arena in Columbia on Saturday, March 2, 2013; and

Whereas, with the biggest prize in South Carolina high school basketball on the line, Lake Marion guard Khalil Halls made it a point to do what he needed to do early on. Determined to leave it all on the court, he knocked down a 3‑pointer with 4:29 to go in the first, sparking a 7‑0 run to put Lake Marion (26‑1) up 15‑9. Halls continued to put points on the scoreboard, adding another seven to finish the half with 14. But Newberry eventually made its move in the second quarter and entered halftime with a 41‑38 advantage; and

Whereas, everything changed for the Gators at the break. Head Coach Roy Brown switched his players to a 2‑1‑2 zone to cut down on some of Newberry’s penetration; and

Whereas, the Gators took to heart their coach’s exhortations and came through like the champions they are, making a run and dominating out of the gate in the third quarter; and

Whereas, following the first bucket of the second half by Newberry, the Gators went on a 10‑3 spurt, capped by a Mike Williams layup, to take a 48‑46 lead with 4:40 left in the third; and

Whereas, Williams wasn’t finished doing damage inside against the Bulldogs’ interior defense. The Gators’ forward scored 10 of his 19 in the third, pushing his team ahead 60‑56 with one quarter remaining; and

Whereas, the final quarter saw 16 lead changes and two ties. However, it was Chris Turner’s 3‑pointer for Lake Marion with 1:27 that proved to be the turning point and gave the game to the Gators; and

Whereas, jubilant Lake Marion fans cheered in excitement as the Gators played as a team with one heartbeat and nailed the championship crown, a win that enabled Lake Marion to take home the school’s first Class AA state title in boys basketball; and

Whereas, Coach Roy Brown, who had honed his players into a championship machine, saw the fruits of his labors as the title trophy was hoisted; and

Whereas, Lake Marion followers are already making plans to watch their team score a repeat victory next year, but for now the Gators intend to enjoy this year’s win as they send off six seniors with a championship ring; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives takes great pleasure in recognizing the young men of the Lake Marion High School boys basketball team for leading with excellence both in the classroom and on the court and expects to hear of continued great achievements in the years ahead. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and commend the Lake Marion High School boys basketball team for capturing the 2013 Class AA State Championship title and honor the team’s exceptional players, coaches, and staff.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Rodney C. Zimmerman and Coach Roy Brown of Lake Marion High School.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑