**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA WOMEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM, HEAD COACH DAWN STALEY, TEAM COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR AN OUTSTANDING SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2014 SOUTHEASTERN REGULAR SEASON CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina is delighted to learn that the members of the University of South Carolina women’s basketball team took top honors at the Southeastern Conference (SEC) regular season competition on Thursday, February 27, 2014; and

Whereas, the Lady Gamecocks have won six conference championships, but for the first time in the team’s history, they wrested the SEC trophy from all would‑be contenders by defeating the determined Lady Bulldogs from Georgia 67‑56 in the final game; and

Whereas, in a six‑year program to rebuild the team, Head Coach Dawn Staley and the Lady Gamecocks logged a record fourteen wins this season in the SEC, and Coach Staley was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame; and

Whereas, in the championship game, Sophomore Tiffany Mitchell carried the Lady Gamecocks to victory with a career‑high 25 points; and

Whereas, teammate Alaina Coates, named SEC Freshman of the Week four times, posted four rebounds and 18 points, seven of them on four consecutive possessions; and

Whereas, the Lady Gamecocks hit the backboards successfully all night and pressed their way to victory with such a significant lead that Coach Staley was able to empty the bench giving all the players the opportunity to participate in their historic game; and

Whereas, in a collegiate sport that demands strength, agility, and accuracy, Coach Staley and her skilled coaching staff capitalized on their own athletic ability and training to forge a championship team and teach these athletes lessons that will prove invaluable through life both on and off court; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives appreciate the recognition that Dawn Staley and the University of South Carolina women basketball players have brought to their university and to our State and look to hear of their continued accomplishments in the days 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 honor the University of South Carolina women’s basketball team, Head Coach Dawn Staley, team coaches, and school officials for an outstanding season and congratulate them for winning the 2014 Southeastern Conference Regular Season Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Head Coach Dawn Staley.

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