**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND THE RICHARD WINN ACADEMY GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM FOR CAPTURING THE 2013 SOUTH CAROLINA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (SCISA) CLASS AA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE AND TO HONOR THE TEAM’S EXCEPTIONAL PLAYERS, COACHES, AND STAFF.

Whereas, fully determined to become champions again, the Richard Winn Academy (RWA) girls basketball team crowned a splendid 29‑1 season by capturing the 2013 SCISA Class AA State Championship title, defeating Marlboro Academy 46‑31 at the Sumter Civic Center on Saturday, February 23, 2013; and

Whereas, jubilant RWA fans excitedly cheered as the Lady Eagles played as a team with one heartbeat to take back the trophy they had last owned in the 1988‑1989 season; and

Whereas, as RWA prepared to take the court in the title game, Head Coach Jason Haltiwanger challenged his team to be Eagles in the face of adversity and to play like champions. The Lady Eagles, who had lost only one game all season, had a lot to overcome after one team member hurt her ankle in the third quarter of the game and another got into second‑half foul trouble; and

Whereas, the Lady Eagles took to heart their coach’s exhortation and came through like the champions they are; and

Whereas, realizing that limiting Marlboro’s outside shooting would be key to a title win, Coach Haltiwanger told his athletes to “streak out to their outside shooters as we change to man‑to‑man defense.” That change helped the team put the game away in the fourth period; and

Whereas, making a sweet victory even sweeter, team members Carson Justice and Alyssa Atkerson made the All‑Tournament Team. To Coach Haltiwanger, who had honed his players into a championship machine and was named Coach of the Year, it was equally sweet that all his players will be returning next season; and

Whereas, the Senate takes great pleasure in recognizing the young women of the Richard Winn Academy girls basketball team for leading with excellence both in the classroom and on the hardwood and expects to hear of continued great achievements in the years ahead. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and commend the Richard Winn Academy girls basketball team for capturing the 2013 South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA) 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 provided to Head of School Nancy Coleman and to Head Coach Jason Haltiwanger of Richard Winn Academy.

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