**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND A’JA RIYADH WILSON FOR HER EXCEPTIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC CAREER AND TO APPLAUD HER FOR HER NUMEROUS AWARDS AND ACCOLADES.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to learn that A’ja Riyadh Wilson of Richland County has garnered an array of athletic awards during her career at Heathwood Hall Episcopal School, where she has excelled academically; and

Whereas, she led the Heathwood Hall Lady Highlander basketball team to its first state title in seventeen years on March 1, 2014, scoring a dramatic three pointer at the buzzer to tie the game and take her team into overtime, where the Highlanders defeated Northwood Academy 66‑58 to win the South Carolina Independent School Association Class AAA championship; and

Whereas, throughout her career at Heathwood, A’ja Wilson at six‑foot‑four posted 2,943 points, 1,658 rebounds, 303 assists, 403 steals, and 512 blocks in 119 games, and she played the final basketball game of her high school career on April 2, 2014, at Chicago’s United Center, one of twenty‑four high‑school players nationwide chosen as McDonald’s All Americans; and

Whereas, a gold medalist on the 2013 Team USA U19 Olympic basketball team in Lithuania, she was tapped as the 2014 Naismith Trophy Girl’s High School Player of the Year, the first female basketball player in South Carolina to command this celebrated award; and

Whereas, A’ja Wilson was selected as the 2014 High School Player of the Year by the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association, the Gatorade South Carolina Girls Basketball Player of the Year, and *Parade* magazine’s 2014 Girls Basketball Player of the Year, and she will lead *Parade*’*s* 58th annual All‑American team; and

Whereas, on the track and field team at Heathwood Hall, she broke the school’s record in the 100‑meter dash, and she played on the girls varsity volleyball team; and

Whereas, named the number one overall college prospect in the nation, A’ja Wilson will join the University of South Carolina Lady Gamecock basketball team in the fall; and

Whereas, she was honored by the Urban League as a 2014 Young and Talented Scholar and serves on Heathwood’s Peer Honor Council, sings in the school chorus, is active in St. John Baptist Church, and has helped with preschool enrichment programs and summer basketball and volleyball camps at Heathwood; and

Whereas, the members of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina appreciate the pride and recognition that A’ja Wilson has brought to her school and to our State and look to hear of her continued success both on and off the basketball court. 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 A’ja Riyadh Wilson for her exceptional high school athletic career and applaud her for her numerous awards and accolades.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to A’ja Riyadh Wilson.

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