**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE HAMMOND SCHOOL WESTERN EQUESTRIAN TEAM, COACH, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS ON A STELLAR SEASON AND TO APPLAUD THEM FOR WINNING THE 2014 SOUTH CAROLINA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ASSOCIATION STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, focused and fully prepared to make it to the top, the Hammond School Western equestrian team took home the 2014 South Carolina Independent School Association State Championship title, the school’s fourth in Western riding; and

Whereas, Hammond’s 2014 Western riders, refusing to rest on their laurels, competed with distinction, successfully rising to claim the prize three previous Hammond teams had already garnered, making it four back‑to‑back titles; and

Whereas, a style of horseback riding that grew from ranching and warfare traditions brought to the Americas by Spanish conquistadors, Western riding trains the horse to change direction with light pressure of a rein against the horse’s neck, or neck rein. The horse also is taught to exercise some independence in using its natural instincts. Such training leads to a deep, secure seat and very light rein contact; and

Whereas, veteran horsewoman Joy McMillion, who has served as head coach of the Western team since its inception in 2008, has taken her riders to the nationals every year. She has worked to instill in team members that striving for excellence is the only way to go, and four consecutive titles stand as testimony to her work and the team’s success; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives, appreciative of the fine work these outstanding athletes have demonstrated, takes great pleasure in celebrating the most recent win of Hammond School’s Western equestrian team. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate the Hammond School Western equestrian team, coach, and school officials on a stellar season and applaud them for winning the 2014 South Carolina Independent School Association State championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Headmaster Chris Angel and Coach Joy McMillion.

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