**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA HEAD BASKETBALL COACH DAWN MICHELLE STALEY FOR HER EXTRAORDINARY ATHLETIC CAREER AND CONGRATULATE HER UPON BEING NAMED TO THE NAISMITH MEMORIAL BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME.

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate is pleased to learn that University of South Carolina head basketball Coach Dawn Michelle Staley has been selected as one of twelve new members to be inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in September 2013 in Springfield, Massachusetts; and

Whereas, before she hit the hardwoods in college, Dawn Staley, standing only five feet and five inches tall, was named the *USA Today* National High School player of the year; and

Whereas, she earned recognition at the University of Virginia as a Kodak All‑American three times from 1990 to 1992 and twice as the National College Player of the Year in 1991 and 1992, and her NCAA career record of 454 steals has never been broken; and

Whereas, NCAA Tournament’s Most Outstanding Player in 1991, Dawn Staley led the Virginia Cavaliers to three NCAA Final Four appearances and is the only player in ACC history to record more than 2,000 points, 700 rebounds, 700 assists, and 400 steals; and

Whereas, she brought home Olympic Gold Medals three times as a player, with wins in 1996, 2000, and 2004, and one time in 2008 as an assistant coach. In the Opening Ceremony of the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Dawn Staley carried the American flag to lead her fellow athletes in the American delegation into the arena; and

Whereas, Dawn Staley played in the American Basketball League (ABL) for the Richmond/Philadelphia Rage from 1997 to 1998. In the Women’s National Basketball Association (WNBA), she played for the Charlotte Sting from 1999 to 2005 and for the Houston Comets from 2005 to 2006; and

Whereas, one of the most decorated players of all time in women’s basketball history, she was selected five times as an All‑Star in the WNBA and two times in the ABL; and

Whereas, she was head coach of women’s basketball at Temple University from 2000 to 2008, taking the Temple Owls to seven postseason appearances before taking the reins of the University of South Carolina Gamecocks on May 10, 2008; and

Whereas, in just her fifth season as the Gamecocks’ head coach, she has posted a 92‑66 record, including two straight NCAA tournament appearances and a Sweet 16 berth in 2012; and

Whereas, she fulfills a personal commitment to give back to her community through the work of the Dawn Staley Foundation, which sponsors after‑school programs for inner‑city children, with a three‑hour focus on academics and athletics at the Hank Gathers Recreation Center, and which organizes summer leagues; and

Whereas, in this year’s class of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, Dawn Staley joins other basketball legends, such as nine‑time NBA All‑Star Gary Payton, four‑time NCAA Final Four coach Jerry Tarkanian, five‑time NCAA Final Four coach Guy Lewis, four‑time NBA All‑Star Bernard King, and seven‑time NCAA Final Four coach Rick Pitino, who became the only head coach in NCAA history to win a NCAA championship in basketball at two different programs when his Louisville Cardinals team recently captured the 2013 NCAA championship title; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate is grateful for the pride and recognition that Dawn Staley has brought to the University of South Carolina as the head coach of the women’s basketball team and commend her selection to the Basketball Hall of Fame. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and honor University of South Carolina head basketball Coach Dawn Michelle Staley for her extraordinary athletic career and congratulate her upon being named to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

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

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