**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR A REMARKABLE SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2016 SOUTH CAROLINA CLASS AAAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate is pleased to learn that the members of the Lexington High School girls soccer team took top honors at the state competition held at W. C. Hawkins Stadium in Irmo on Saturday, May 14, 2016; and

Whereas, to the cheers of their exuberant fans, the Lexington Wildcats defeated the J. L. Mann High School Patriots in a 2‑1 sudden‑death overtime victory and emerged as the state’s only unbeaten soccer team this season with a 25‑0‑2 record; and

Whereas, ranked the number one team in the State and number eighteen by *USA Today*, Lexington fell behind 1‑0 forty‑eight minutes into the game when J. L. Mann posted the first goal; and

Whereas, the Wildcats battled back to tie the score fourteen minutes later when sophomore all‑state forward Megan Classer made a swift pass to Mary Katherine Waters who kicked it just inside the box to score the game‑tying goal, her twentieth of the season; and

Whereas, with less than a minute remaining in the first sudden‑death overtime period, Megan Classer received a pass from teammate Brooke Power and rifled a shot toward the goal to score the controversial winning goal; and

Whereas, the shot hit the crossbar and ricocheted straight down before being cleared by the Patriots, and after a brief discussion among the officials, it was ruled a goal; and

Whereas, goalie Maggie Carpenter, back Ali Rider, midfielder Bailey Feder, forward Tanner Behling, forward Jessica Fedorka, back Maddy Goodman, midfielder Madison Carrier, back Callaway Grady, midfielder Abby Quenneville, midfielder Susanna Hutto, back Tiara Evans, back Maggie Mahoney, back Gabby Carter, midfielder Katie Slick, back Pamela Neary, back Siera Kirby, forward Julia Gherardi, goalie Hailey Schopp, back Cassidy Bouknight, and forward Maggie Schopp completed the championship team’s roster; and

Whereas, in a sport that demands strength, stamina, speed, and agility, the Lexington Wildcats persevered game after game to post an undefeated season and to claim the school’s first state championship trophy; and

Whereas, in his eighteenth season as Lexington’s head soccer coach, Chris Fryland and his skilled coaching staff of Kelley Maupin and Alli Edens capitalized on their own athletic ability and training to build a championship‑caliber team and teach these athletes lessons that will prove invaluable through life both on and off the field; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate appreciate the pride and recognition that the Lexington soccer players have brought to their school and their community and look to hear of their continued accomplishments in the days ahead. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and honor the Lexington High School girls varsity soccer team, coaches, and school officials for a remarkable season and congratulate them for winning the 2016 South Carolina Class AAAA State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Melissa Rawl and Coach Chris Fryland.

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