**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND THE HAMMOND SCHOOL VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR A PERFECT SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR CAPTURING THE 2015 SOUTH CAROLINA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ASSOCIATION CLASS AAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the members of the Hammond School football team of Richland County took top honors at the South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA) state competition held at Benedict’s Charlie W. Johnson Stadium in Columbia on Saturday, November 21, 2015; and

Whereas, to the delight of their fans, the Hammond Skyhawks defeated Pinewood Preparatory School 29‑13 to take the team’s second state championship in a row, the eighth in ten years. Led by a strong contingent of senior athletes, the Hammond football team has been undefeated for twenty‑five consecutive games; and

Whereas, with a 12‑0 season and the team’s second straight undefeated season, the Skyhawks took nothing for granted as they rushed and pounded past the Pinewood Panthers in the first quarter with a pair of long passes from the quarterback that posted the first two touchdowns and a 15‑0 lead; and

Whereas, by the last play of the second quarter, the Panthers were able to reduce the 22‑0 Skyhawk lead when they posted a touchdown as time expired in the half, leaving Hammond ahead 22‑7 as the teams took to the lockers for the halftime; and

Whereas, neither team posted any points in the second half until late in the third quarter when the Panthers mounted a drive for a touchdown with an unsuccessful conversion attempt for a 22‑13 score, chiseling again at the Hammond lead; and

Whereas, when another Hammond interception converted to a Skyhawk touchdown, the score was set in stone. Led by the defensive coaches, Craig Farnsworth, Jon Wheeler, and Gene Smith, the Skyhawk defense, which had been the strength of the team all year, sealed the victory; and

Whereas, in a sport that demands strength, know‑how, and grit, Head Coach Erik Kimrey, along with his skilled coaching staff, utilized his athletic ability and training to mold a championship team and teach these athletes invaluable lessons that will serve them well throughout life on and off the gridiron; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the pride and recognition that the Hammond football players have brought to their school and their community and look to hear of their success in the days ahead. 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 the Hammond School varsity football team, coaches, and school officials for a perfect season and congratulate them for capturing the 2015 South Carolina Independent School Association Class AAA State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Headmaster Chris Angel and Coach Erik Kimrey.

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