**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR AND CONGRATULATE COACH MARK SMITH OF ABBEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL ON ACHIEVING HIS FIVE HUNDREDTH CAREER VICTORY AS A BASEBALL COACH AND TO WISH HIM MUCH CONTINUED SUCCESS IN THE DAYS TO COME.

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly is pleased to learn that Coach Mark Smith of Abbeville High School recently captured his five hundredth career win as a baseball coach, all five hundred of those wins being for Abbeville; and

Whereas, Coach Smith earned this distinction on April 5, 2016, at the Panthers’ 15‑3 upset of Strom Thurmond, the top‑ranked team in Class AA; and

Whereas, now in his thirty‑second season as a baseball coach, this humble man gives credit for his success to his team, his family, his former players, the Abbeville baseball community, and the Lord; and

Whereas, in preparation for his career as an educator and coach, Mark Smith earned his bachelor’s degree in health and physical education/fitness at Erskine College, followed by a master’s degree in education (educational leadership and administration, general) from Clemson University; and

Whereas, over the years, Coach Smith has guided Abbeville to numerous region titles and has seen his team play for the state championship three times. Among his many honors are several “Coach of the Year” awards, and he is past president of the South Carolina Baseball Coaches Association. Other honors include service as head coach in the North‑South All‑Star baseball game; and

Whereas, he has helped shape the lives of many boys as a coach and mentor, including Strom Thurmond’s coach Mack Hite, a former player himself, who attributes his passion for the sport to the many years he spent around Coach Smith while developing his baseball skills and enjoying playing the game; and

Whereas, the members of the General Assembly take great pleasure in saluting Coach Smith on reaching this exciting milestone in his career, his five hundredth win. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, honor and congratulate Coach Mark Smith of Abbeville High School on achieving his five hundredth career victory as a baseball coach and wish him much continued success in the days to come.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Coach Mark Smith of Abbeville High School.

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