**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE ABBEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR AN OUTSTANDING SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2015 CLASS AA DIVISION II STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate is pleased to learn that the members of the Abbeville High School varsity football team took top honors at the state competition held in Columbia on Saturday, December 5, 2015; and

Whereas, amid the jubilation and cheers of their fans, the Abbeville Panthers hoisted their seventh state trophy by defeating the Silver Bluff High School Bulldogs 45‑27; and

Whereas, Abbeville garnered consecutive state trophies in 2010 and 2011 in Class A Division I, and this year’s victory brought the team’s tally to seven; and

Whereas, the Panthers accumulated a total of 459 yards on offense in the championship game. With a gain of 84 yards, Joseph Battle completed all three passes for touchdowns, and he also rushed for 105 yards to post three touchdowns; and

Whereas, Abbeville’s Khalil Fuller posted 112 yards rushing and a touchdown for the Panthers, and teammate Ventray Belton made two catches for 45 yards and two touchdowns; and

Whereas, boasting an 11‑3 season, the Panthers rushed and pounded their way to become only one of eleven teams in Palmetto State history to win seven or more state championships; and

Whereas, in a sport that demands strength, expertise, and determination, Head Coach Jamie Nickles and his skilled coaching staff capitalized on their own athletic ability and training to build a championship team and teach these athletes vital life lessons, inestimable both on and off the gridiron; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate value the respect and recognition that the Abbeville High School football players have brought to their school and their community and look to hear of their continued achievements 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 Abbeville High School varsity football team, coaches, and school officials for an outstanding season and congratulate them for winning the 2015 Class AA Division II State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Charles Costner, Principal of Abbeville High School, and Coach Jamie Nickles.

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