**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CELEBRATE AND COMMEND PITCHER CARL EDWARDS, JR., OF NEWBERRY COUNTY ON THE INSTRUMENTAL ROLE HE PLAYED IN HELPING THE CHICAGO CUBS WIN THE 2016 MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL WORLD SERIES.

Whereas, after ten innings in Game 7 of the 2016 World Series, the long‑blighted Chicago Cubs finally overcame the seventy‑one‑year reign of the billy goat curse and ended one hundred eight years without a championship by vanquishing the Cleveland Indians 8‑7. Newberry son Carl “C.J.” Edwards, Jr., a pitcher for the Cubs, was a vital player in this long‑hoped‑for victory, which took place on November 3, 2016; and

Whereas, C.J., from the age of five, dreamed of playing professional baseball. His love of baseball led from playing backyard catch with his dad, Carl, Sr., to pitching in one of the most gripping games of Major League Baseball history; and

Whereas, when he was drafted by the Texas Rangers in the forty‑eighth round of the 2011 Major League Baseball Draft, C.J. was only nineteen years old. After playing on the Rangers’ farm teams for a time, C.J. was traded to the Cubs in July 2013. A 1.96 ERA with thirty‑three strikeouts over twenty‑three innings with the Daytona Cubs, a farm team of the Chicago Cubs, led to C.J.’s being named the Minor League Baseball Pitcher of the Year; and

Whereas, in September 2015, C.J. made his major league debut for the Cubs against the St. Louis Cardinals at Busch Stadium. He became an official rookie in the 2016 season, when he also recorded his first major league save against the San Francisco Giants; and

Whereas, C.J. made his first World Series appearance in inning six of Game 3. He did not disappoint his fans as he struck out the side, completing his duty as a relief pitcher. He made his final appearance of the season in the tenth inning of what was arguably the greatest Game 7 in the history of the World Series. With the score tied at 6, a rain delay forced the players off the field. The Cubs made the most of this break, rallying together. After seventeen suspenseful minutes, the Cubbies stepped up to the plate and scored two runs. C.J. was then put into the pressure cooker as the Indians took up their bats. Emanating confidence, he strode to the mound, his years of dedication and practice having prepared him for this moment. He secured the first two outs of the final inning of the game, striking out Mike Napoli and forcing Jose Ramirez to ground out, effectively setting the Cubs up to strut off the diamond with the Commissioner’s Trophy hoisted on their shoulders; and

Whereas, this series was marked with several major league baseball firsts. Prior to 2016, the Cubs and Indians had never faced each other in the postseason. They entered their matchup with the longest World Series droughts, a combined one hundred seventy‑six years without a championship. With a series final of 4 games to 3, the Cubs became the first team to come back from a 3‑1 deficit to win the series since 1985, a monumental feat as Games 6 and 7 were won on the road; and

Whereas, an additional groundbreaking honor can be claimed by C.J. He and fellow teammates Addison Russell, Dexter Fowler, and Jason Heyward became the first African Americans to play for the Cubs in the World Series; and

Whereas, the Senate is proud to call C.J. a native of South Carolina and is grateful for the renown and respect he has brought to the Palmetto State. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, celebrate and commend pitcher Carl Edwards, Jr., of Newberry County on the instrumental role he played in helping the Chicago Cubs win the 2016 Major League Baseball World Series.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Carl Edwards, Jr.

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