**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE THE BOB JONES UNIVERSITY BRUINS MEN’S SOCCER TEAM ON WINNING THE 2016 NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COLLEGE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION II NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, in a hard fought and emotional game, the Bob Jones University men’s soccer team stood strong in a national playoff that lifted the Bruins to the top of the mountain and handed a 2‑0 defeat to North Central University. In capturing the crown, BJU’s soccer program also captured its first National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) Division II National Championship; and

Whereas, in November 2016, the Bruins entered the game as the #2 seed for the national tournament, held in Kissimmee, Florida, and they had fought through their pool play with back‑to‑back wins over #3 Grace Bible College and #6 Ozark Christian College; and

Whereas, BJU had battled adversity throughout the 2016 season, but after coming up just short in the NCCAA Division II South Region Championship, the Bruins earned the at‑large bid for the national tournament. They made the most of it, outscoring their opponents 12‑0; and

Whereas, a memorable year, 2016 delivered various accolades to the Bruins, among them the National Intercollegiate Soccer Officials Association Sportsmanship Award. BJU defenseman Josh Harm and midfielder Marvell Lareche were named First Team All‑American, while forward Stephen Grider was selected Second Team All‑American. Head Coach Jesse McCormick was named National Coach of the Year; and

Whereas, grateful for the acclaim and respect the BJU men’s soccer team has brought to this great State in winning the NCCAA Division II national title, the General Assembly takes great pleasure in saluting this fine group of young athletes and looks forward with interest to hearing of their future achievements. 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, recognize and congratulate the Bob Jones University Bruins men’s soccer team on winning the 2016 National Christian College Athletic Association Division II National Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to President Steve Pettit and Head Coach Jesse McCormick of Bob Jones University.

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