**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR BRAD PORTER, COACH AND TEACHER, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER FORTY‑TWO YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE STUDENTS OF CHERAW HIGH SCHOOL AND TO WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives have learned that Brad Porter, coach of the wrestling team at Cheraw High School, will begin a well‑deserved retirement after forty‑two years as a premier educator and coach with the school; and

Whereas, Coach Porter began his career with Cheraw High School on August 21, 1975, and started with Cheraw’s wrestling program in 1987. Over the course of forty‑two years, he has seen great success both in and out of the classroom and led two championship wrestling teams to victory; and

Whereas, during his tenure as a wrestling coach, Brad has coached sixteen individual state champions, nineteen state runners‑up, and seventeen others to third place, in addition to gaining two championship titles in 2003 and 2017. He has also been a football, soccer, and baseball coach; and

Whereas, Coach Porter has left an indelible mark upon all those he has coached. At the 2017 wrestling state championship, former wrestlers traveled from all over to support him during that milestone. Such was the influence of Coach Porter that men in their thirties came to Columbia to cheer on their high school coach; and

Whereas, known for his sense of humor, Coach Porter also has a tough side. His student athletes respected this, knowing that Coach Porter was simply trying to coax them to be their best. His athletes saw him as a father figure they could trust, confident that he held their best interests at heart; and

Whereas, the respect Coach Porter generated is best evidenced by the fact that his colleagues cannot recall a single instance in which an irate parent approached him to disagree with his coaching choices, a feat many high school coaches would very much like to accomplish; and

Whereas, after forty‑two years as an educator and a coach, Brad is looking forward to spending many happy hours with his cherished wife Marsha Porter, his two beloved children Meredith Thatch and Matthew Porter, and his five darling grandchildren; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the years of dedication that Brad Porter has devoted to the students of Cheraw High School and wish him many years of enjoyment in his well‑earned retirement. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor Brad Porter, coach and teacher, upon the occasion of his retirement, after forty‑two years of dedicated service to the students of Cheraw High School, and wish him continued success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Brad Porter.

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