**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE WINTHROP UNIVERSITY MEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR AN OUTSTANDING SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2017 BIG SOUTH TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the members of the Winthrop University men’s basketball team won the Big South tournament championship game on March 5, 2017, at Winthrop Coliseum in Rock Hill; and

Whereas, joy spread through the arena as Winthrop University’s men’s basketball team demolished Campbell University 76‑59 in front of an ecstatic crowd of more than five thousand one hundred fans to earn their first NCAA tournament bid since 2010; and

Whereas, Winthrop led by seven points at the half after shooting fifty percent from the floor and making five of eleven three‑pointers; and

Whereas, Keon Johnson heated up the second half to finish with twenty‑six points, while fellow senior Roderick Perkins chipped in fifteen points. Xavier Cooks had seventeen points and fourteen rebounds for his eleventh double‑double of the season; and

Whereas, Winthrop’s stellar defense was able to hold the Camels to a measly 0.87 points per possession; and

Whereas, Winthrop was the tournament’s top seed and benefitted from getting to play home games all the way through. The Eagles’ NCAA berth is the first in coach Pat Kelsey’s five season with Winthrop; and

Whereas, in a sport that demands agility and skill, Head Coach Pat Kelsey and his top‑notch staff capitalized on their own athletic ability and training to forge a championship‑caliber team and teach these athletes lessons that will prove invaluable through life both on and off the court; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the pride and recognition that the young men of the Winthrop University basketball team have brought to their school and community and wish them luck in the upcoming NCAA tournament. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor the Winthrop University men’s basketball team, coaches, and school officials for an outstanding season and congratulate them for winning the 2017 Big South title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to President Dr. Daniel F. Mahoney and Head Coach Pat Kelsey.

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