**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE NEW COVENANT SCHOOL BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2017 SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS CLASS A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the members of the New Covenant basketball team of Anderson County took top honors at the state competition held at Grace Christian School in Columbia on February 18, 2017; and

Whereas, amid the clamorous cheers of their exuberant fans, the New Covenant Cavaliers lit up the scoreboards with a 50‑22 victory over Foothills Christian to garner the school’s first state title in just its second full season of basketball; and

Whereas, making their victory even sweeter, both their boys’ and girls’ basketball teams battled their way to reach the state finals in their fledgling second year, and the boys capped their season with an impressive undefeated record; and

Whereas, in this stellar season, New Covenant’s powerhouse motion‑based offense averaged sixty‑five points per game, and the strong defense helped them to win their games by an average of thirty points; and

Whereas, the Cavaliers’ standouts Stuart Marshburn, a junior, and Reese Miller, a senior, were named to the All‑Tournament team; and

Whereas, when Joe Canney was hired as the school’s headmaster in 2012, he brought his background in athletics and hoped to see the school develop an athletic program, so he spent his first three years surveying the interest and the possibilities; and

Whereas, the Cavaliers succeeded in spite of the fact that they had no gym at the school and played their games eleven miles away at Trinity Baptist in Williamston, often having to find alternative locations to practice; and

Whereas, in an era when many express the need for schools to have more funds to implement programs that can be successful, New Covenant showcases the energy and determination inherent in youth to overcome obstacles and achieve their goals; and

Whereas, Head Coach Patrick Miller and his coaching staff capitalized on their own athletic ability and training to build a championship team in a sport that demands strength, agility, and accuracy and to teach these athletes to hit the backboards and press their opponents, which greatly helped them throughout their successful season; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives appreciate the pride and recognition that the New Covenant basketball players have brought to their school and their community and look to hear of their continued accomplishments in the days to come. 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 New Covenant School boys varsity basketball team, coaches, and school officials for an extraordinary season and congratulate them for winning the 2017 South Carolina Association of Christian Schools Class A State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Headmaster Joe Canney and Coach Patrick Miller.

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