**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE ROCK HILL HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY WRESTLING TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR AN OUTSTANDING SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2018 SOUTH CAROLINA CLASS AAAAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING DUALS TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the members of the Rock Hill High School varsity wrestling team of York County took top honors at the state competition held at Airport High School in Columbia on Tuesday, February 20, 2018; and

Whereas, to the cheers of their exuberant fans, the Rock Hill Bearcats defeated the top‑ranked Fort Dorchester Patriots in a nail‑biting 35‑33 finish to claim the program’s nineteenth duals state championship match and a 43‑2 season; and

Whereas, after losing the state title in 2017 to River Bluff High School, the Bearcats were determined not to finish in second place again in 2018. The team boasts a 402‑38 over the last eleven years; and

Whereas, Fort Dorchester posted an early 10‑0 lead, but Rock Hill’s Justin Beck garnered a 15‑2 major decision at 113 to put the Bearcats on the board; and

Whereas, facing a 13-point deficit, Rock Hill posted wins in three straight weight divisions when Bailey Wilkins won by technical fall at 132, teammate Andrew Simpson pinned his opponent at 138, and Michael Ramirez battled for a 2‑1 decision at 145, giving the Bearcats their first lead of the night; and

Whereas, after senior Noah Reynolds pinned Fort Dorchester’s defending state champion at 160 with only one second remaining in the second period, Rock Hill entered the final two weight classes trailing 24‑33; and

Whereas, Rock Hill closed the competition with a pair of second-period pins by Brandon Mills at 195 and Zach Spicer at 220 to secure the final score of 35‑33; and

Whereas, Rock Hill earned bonus points in six weight classes and pinned opponents in four classes to help secure the title; and

Whereas, the Rock Hill grapplers had numerous stand‑out individuals: Devon Rice was a state qualifier, Justin Beck and Brandon Mills were both runner‑ups, and Bailey Wilkins and Noah Reynolds were state champions; and

Whereas, Head Coach Cain Beard and his skilled coaching staff maximized their own experience and passion in a sport that demands mental stamina, strength, and individual excellence to forge a championship‑caliber team and teach these athletes lessons that will prove invaluable through life both on and off the mats; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the pride and recognition that the Rock Hill High School wrestlers have brought to their school and their community and look to hear of their continued accomplishments in the days ahead. 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 Rock Hill High School varsity wrestling team, coaches, and school officials for an outstanding season and congratulate them for winning the 2018 South Carolina Class AAAAA State Championship Wrestling Duals title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Ozzie Ahl and Coach Cain Beard.

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