**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR WILLIE E. JEFFRIES, HEAD FOOTBALL COACH EMERITUS OF SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY, UPON BEING ELECTED TO THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly are pleased to learn that Coach Willie E. Jeffries will be inducted into the national College Football Hall of Fame during the annual Enshrinement Festival to be held in South Bend, Indiana, July 16 and 17, 2010; and

Whereas, during a remarkable career of twenty‑nine years as a head football coach, Coach Jeffries accrued a 179‑132‑6 record over nineteen years at South Carolina State University and five years each at Wichita State and Howard universities; and

Whereas, he earned a bachelor’s degree from South Carolina State University and then a master’s degree in guidance and counseling in 1966, and he has completed further study at the University of Indiana; and

Whereas, he began a highly successful high school coaching career as assistant coach at Lancaster’s Barr Street High School and then captured three consecutive state AAA championships as head football coach at Gaffney’s Granard High School; and

Whereas, after coaching on the collegiate level for five years as an assistant at North Carolina A & T and the University of Pittsburgh, he became the head football coach in Orangeburg in 1973; and

Whereas, known as The Legend at South Carolina State University, he first coached at his alma mater from 1973 until 1978 and amassed a 50‑13‑4 record to produce six winning seasons; and

Whereas, the first African American to be named head football coach at a Division 1‑A school, he led Wichita State University to unprecedented success before taking Howard University to their first league victory and a national championship; and

Whereas, Coach Jeffries returned to South Carolina State University as head football coach from 1989 to 2001 where he coached six winning seasons, captured the Mid‑Eastern Atlantic Conference (MEAC) championship, played three times in the Heritage Bowl, and earned a national title; and

Whereas, selected as director of athletics fund raising in 2002, he was named head football coach emeritus at his alma mater; and

Whereas, a past board member for the Midlands Four Area of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, he was appointed to the NCAA Rules Committee in 1999 and was inducted into the South Carolina State University Hall of Fame in 1998, the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame, and the MEAC Hall of Fame; and

Whereas, he and his beloved wife, Mary, have three fine children, Valerie, Tamara, and Willie, Jr., who have blessed them with five adoring grandchildren; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly are grateful for the legacy that Willie E. Jeffries has left in the lives of so many young athletes in South Carolina and for the pride and recognition he has brought to the Orangeburg community and to the Palmetto State. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

That the members of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina, by this resolution, recognize and honor Willie E. Jeffries, head football coach emeritus of South Carolina State University, upon being elected to the College Football Hall of Fame.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Coach Willie E. Jeffries.

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