**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE THE FORT DORCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM FOR A STELLAR SEASON, AND TO CONGRATULATE THE WRESTLERS, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR CAPTURING THE 2010 CLASS AAAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives were pleased to learn that the Fort Dorchester High School wrestling team took home the Class AAAA state duals trophy after defeating Rock Hill High School 36‑33 in the final contest of the year on February 16, 2010; and

Whereas, looking to redeem their 2009 championship loss to the Rock Hill Bearcats, the Fort Dorchester Patriots took such a striking lead in the first nine matches that they were able to forfeit the final five matches and still pin down the victory; and

Whereas, after ushering Irmo High School in 1980 and Dutch Fork High School in 2003 to state titles, Coach B. D. LaPrad led the Patriots to their first state championship in 2007, and credited this year’s victory to sound teamwork that developed throughout the year in this mature team; and

Whereas, in spite of losing their opening match with a quick takedown in sudden‑death overtime, the Patriots grappled their way to the number one spot in the State for the second time by taking eight straight matches, half of which were by pin fall; and

Whereas, to the delight of their fans and the disappointment of their foes, Patriot Evan Thompson, ranked ninth in the 171‑weight class, offered a surprising upset when he defeated the division’s third‑ranked player; and

Whereas, in a sport that requires mental stamina, strategy, and strength, Coach B. D. LaPrad and his fine coaching staff used their own athletic ability and training to forge a championship team and set a standard of individual excellence that will prove invaluable to these athletes throughout life; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the pride and recognition that the Fort Dorchester High School wrestling team has brought to its school and community and will expect to hear of future accomplishments from these fine young athletes. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, honor and recognize the Fort Dorchester High School wrestling team for a stellar season, and congratulate the wrestlers, coaches, and school officials for capturing the 2010 Class AAAA State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Jim Atkinson and Coach B. D. LaPrad.

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