**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE THE R.C. EDWARDS MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND OF PICKENS COUNTY FOR CAPTURING THE OUTSTANDING CONCERT BAND AWARD AT THE PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURAL HERITAGE BAND FESTIVAL HELD ON JANUARY 18, 2009, IN BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

Whereas, the R.C. Edwards Middle School band of Pickens County won top national awards for its performance at the Presidential Inaugural Heritage Band Festival held on January 18, 2009, in Baltimore, Maryland; and

Whereas, at this invitation‑only festival, a panel of nationally acclaimed judges gave the Panthers the highest score among all competitors, which included bands from Las Vegas, Chicago, Miami, California, Georgia, New Jersey, and North Carolina. Led by director Daniel Marsh, the band won the Outstanding Concert Band Award, the highest possible honor presented at the event; and

Whereas, in addition, the Panthers took home the Adjudicator’s Award, a trophy given for scoring ninety‑two or higher out of one hundred possible points given by the judges; and

Whereas, for their stellar performance, the R.C. Edwards Middle School band also was presented the Gold Placement Award, an honor achieved by no other group in the competition. Finally, the band won an invitational Festival of Gold certificate, which allows it to participate in a special workshop with accomplished judges and professors of music at a later date. To top off the January 18th festival, after their performance band members participated in a clinic presented by the judges; and

Whereas, the R.C. Edwards Middle School band has brought great pride and recognition to its school, community, and State, and the members of the Senate take great pleasure in recognizing such a wonderful group of young musicians. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and congratulate the R.C. Edwards Middle School band of Pickens County for capturing the Outstanding Concert Band Award at the Presidential Inaugural Heritage Band Festival held on January 18, 2009, in Baltimore, Maryland.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Gary Culler and Band Director Daniel Marsh of R.C. Edwards Middle School and the R.C. Edwards Middle School band.

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