**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE HOLLY HILL ACADEMY VARSITY BASEBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR AN OUTSTANDING SEASON, AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE SOUTH CAROLINA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ASSOCIATION CLASS AA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate is pleased to learn that the members of the Holly Hill Academy varsity baseball team of Dorchester County took top honors in the state tournament in May 2012; and

Whereas, to the delight of their fans, the Holly Hill Raiders captured the state trophy in the third game against the Williamsburg Academy Stallions in the best‑of‑three series and finished their season with an impressive 22‑8 record, outscoring their opponents 185‑87; and

Whereas, in the first game of the championship series and the first championship game in the school’s history, Head Coach Matt Brownlee put the team’s five seniors in the starting lineup at the Stallions’ Corral in Williamsburg, and they awed the fans; and

Whereas, by the top of the third, the Raiders had taken a 5‑0 lead, which the Stallions answered after a thirty‑minute game delay with three runs, but Holly Hill reliever Jonathan McWaters stayed the rally and finished the game 5‑3; and

Whereas, in the second game, the Raiders took the home‑field advantage, but the Stallions shut out the Raiders on the mound, and with only six hits, Williamsburg still mounted a 5‑0 victory to force a winner‑take‑all final game; and

Whereas, Holly Hill faced the third game on the Stallion diamond, but with the score tied at 1‑1 in the bottom of the seventh and base runners on first and second, Jonathan McWaters laid down the sacrifice bunt, and a Stallion errant throw to first base enabled pinch runner Noah Lewis to cross home plate for the Raiders’ game‑winning run in the 2‑1 victory to clinch the title; and

Whereas, in a sport that demands strength, strategy, and quickness, Coach Brownlee and his skilled coaching staff capitalized on their own athletic ability and training to build a championship team and teach these athletes lessons that will prove invaluable through life both on and off diamond; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate appreciate the recognition that the Holly Hill Academy baseball players 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 Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and honor the Holly Hill Academy varsity baseball team, coaches, and school officials for an outstanding season, and congratulate them for winning the South Carolina Independent School Association Class AA State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Headmaster John A. Gasque and Coach Matt Brownlee.

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