**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE THE LAURENS ACADEMY VARSITY BASEBALL TEAM FOR ITS OUTSTANDING SEASON AND FOR WINNING ITS SIXTH CONSECUTIVE SOUTH CAROLINA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL CLASS A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

Whereas, the Laurens Academy Crusaders varsity baseball team defeated Coastal Christian Academy to continue its baseball dynasty by winning the 2012 South Carolina Independent School Class A State Championship title; and

Whereas, Head Coach Dr. Darryl Halbert, along with assistant coaches Lancen Halbert and Joel Greene, used the tradition of hard work, dedication, and excellence to mold a team, returning only two regular starters from the previous year, into a championship-caliber baseball team; and

Whereas, led by the Senior leadership of Taylor Sims, Michael Knight, Jacob Green, and Whitson Verdin, the Crusaders turned around a slow start to the season and an early season loss to rival W. W. King Academy by avenging the loss and defeating the Knights in a re-match for the regional title; and

Whereas, the Crusaders opened the playoffs with a convincing sweep of Jefferson Davis Academy and then defeated the Clarendon Hall Saints in a hard fought three game series; and

Whereas, in the first game of the Championship series against Coastal Christian Academy in Charleston, the Crusaders scored in the last inning to secure a thrilling 3-2 victory; and, back in Laurens for the second game, the Crusaders cemented their page in the Laurens Academy baseball dynasty with a 6-5 win to take home the State Championship trophy; and

Whereas, the members of the team were also honored with several individual commendations for their excellent season as Coach Halbert was recognized as Region and State Coach of the Year, Taylor Sims was recognized as State and Region Player of the Year, All-State was awarded to Michael Knight and Taylor Sims, and All-Region was awarded to Michael Knight, Tanner Golf, and Taylor Sims. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and congratulate Coach Halbert and the 2012 Laurens Academy Varsity Baseball team for its outstanding season and for capturing its historic sixth consecutive South Carolina Independent School Class A State Championship.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Laurens Academy Headmaster Todd Kirk and Head Coach Dr. Darryl Halbert.

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