**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR JOHN FRANKLIN THAMES, AN EXCEPTIONAL TEACHER AND OUTSTANDING COACH AT MANNING HIGH SCHOOL, FOR A HALF CENTURY OF MENTORING GENERATIONS OF STUDENTS AND INSPIRING SUCCESS AND EXCELLENCE IN THE CLASSROOM AND ON THE ATHLETIC FIELD AND COURT.

Whereas, the members of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina are grateful for the fifty years that John Franklin Thames has given to education and athleticism in the Palmetto State; and

Whereas, reared in Alcolu in Clarendon County, he graduated from Manning High School in 1953 and served in the United States Army as an executive officer of Training Company at Fort Jackson and in Korea as an Army tank platoon commander; and

Whereas, “Coach,” as he is affectionately called, earned a bachelor’s degree from Presbyterian College in 1958 and returned to his high school alma mater to begin teaching and coaching; and

Whereas, over his forty-four year career as the Manning High School Lady Monarchs head basketball coach he has amassed two state championships, three state runner‑up teams, and fifteen regional championship victories. As he enters the 2011‑2012 season with the Lady Monarchs, his 822‑303 record is the winningest women’s program in the Palmetto State and a grand testimony to his superior talent and tireless dedication; and

Whereas, Coach Thames has also demonstrated great success as Manning High School baseball coach for fourteen years and assistant football coach for thirty‑six years and as a challenging, and beloved, teacher; and

Whereas, teaching history and civics, he has been twice honored as Teacher of the Year for Manning High School and was named the 2008 Outstanding South Carolina Teacher of U. S. History by the Daughters of the American Revolution; and

Whereas, dedicated to helping students apply to higher education institutions to enable them to pursue their dreams, he received the Silver Crescent, the highest civilian recognition awarded by South Carolina for outstanding contributions to the local community; and

Whereas, since 2004, Coach Thames has conducted a free one week basketball camp for girls; and for years he has used his own personal funds to buy shoes for all of his players because he did not want to single out those who could not afford new shoes; and

Whereas, along with numerous coaching awards in his illustrious career, Manning High School honored this hometown legend by naming the school’s gymnasium the John Franklin Thames Arena; and

Whereas, Coach Thames has dedicated his life to helping students and players succeed; his generosity is unparalleled, and his standards of excellence and utmost integrity have inspired and helped shape the lives of thousands of Manning High School students; and

Whereas, it is proper and fitting that the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives pause in their deliberations to honor such a distinguished native son as John Franklin Thames who has been an outstanding coach, teacher, and mentor of the highest order for the students of Manning High School and for the youth of our State. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina, by this resolution, recognize and honor John Franklin Thames, an exceptional teacher and outstanding coach at Manning High School, for a half century of mentoring generations of students and inspiring success and excellence in the classroom and on the athletic field and court.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to John Franklin Thames.

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