**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE BELTON‑HONEA PATH HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY WRESTLING TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR AN OUTSTANDING SEASON, AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR PINNING DOWN THE 2012 CLASS AAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the members of the Belton‑Honea Path (BHP) High School varsity wrestling team of Anderson County put a hold on the top honors at the state competition on Saturday, February 11, 2012; and

Whereas, to the delight of their fans, the BHP Bears served the Chapin High School wrestlers their second straight defeat at the final competition for the state title with a score of 35‑30; and

Whereas, with three bouts remaining, the Chapin Eagles had a lead of 30‑21 before the Bears took one bout in an 11‑5 decision between senior Zack Farmer at 170 pounds and Chapin’s defending state runner‑up; and

Whereas, BHP sophomore Caleb Bowie at 195 pounds was trailing in his bout 8‑2 entering the third period when he completed a stunning one‑motion pin of his opponent for a critical point swing in BHP’s favor to secure the Bears’ triumph; and

Whereas, in a title‑clinching pin, BHP senior Kyle Low at 120 pounds took his Eagle opponent with two seconds remaining in the second period; and

Whereas, the Bears have not won a state title since 1993, and this was the team’s first appearance playing for the title at a championship match in the dual‑match playoff era that began in 1994; and

Whereas, for the eight seniors who will leave their alma mater this spring, the win represented years of perfecting their ability; and

Whereas, in the playoffs, BHP defeated York High School in the first round 34‑27, and in the second round with a score of 31‑25, they took down Eastside High School, who has won the AAA title for eight of the last eleven years; and

Whereas, they continued in the third round of competition to take the Upper State championship from West‑Oak High School with a score of 34‑30; and

Whereas, in a sport that demands individual discipline as well as mental and physical strength, Head Coach Chris Strickland and his skilled coaching staff used their own athletic ability and training to forge a championship team and teach these grapplers lessons that will prove invaluable through life both on and off the mats; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the pride and recognition the Belton‑Honea Path High School varsity wrestlers 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 House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor the Belton‑Honea Path High School varsity wrestling team, coaches, and school officials for an outstanding season, and congratulate them for pinning down the 2012 Class AAA State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Lester McCall and Coach Chris Strickland.

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