**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE THOMAS HEYWARD ACADEMY VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR AN OUTSTANDING SEASON, AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2012 SOUTH CAROLINA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ASSOCIATION CLASS AA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the members of the Thomas Heyward Academy varsity girls basketball team of Jasper County took top honors at the state competition held at Sumter County Convention Center on Saturday, February 25, 2012; and

Whereas, to the delight of their fans and the dismay of their opponents, the Thomas Heyward Lady Rebels defeated Richard Winn Academy in the final game of the season in a nail‑biting 46‑42 finish; and

Whereas, when Richard Winn Lady Eagle Alex Maass amassed 14 points in the first quarter, the Lady Rebels abandoned their tried‑and‑true defensive strategy that had earned them an enviable 26‑0 record and responded by changing to a triangle‑and‑two defense which did not allow her to get off a shot in the second quarter; and

Whereas, Lady Rebels Jamie Malphrus and Caitlin Cooler were game‑high scorers for Thomas Heyward with 15 and 14 points respectively; and

Whereas, seven seniors played in the final game for the mature Lady Rebel team, and Caitlin Cooler and Ashlie Layman were named all‑tournament players; and

Whereas, in a sport that demands strength, agility, and skill, volunteer Head Coach Gary Mazzanna and his skilled coaching assistants used their own athletic ability and training to mold a championship team and teach these athletes lessons that will prove invaluable through life both on and off court; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the pride and recognition that the Thomas Heyward Academy varsity girls basketball 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 House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor the Thomas Heyward Academy varsity girls basketball team, coaches, and school officials for an outstanding season, and congratulate them for winning the 2012 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 D. Rogers, Jr., and Coach Gary Mazzanna.

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