**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE GAFFNEY HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR AN OUTSTANDING SEASON, AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2012 CLASS AAAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the members of the Gaffney High School varsity boys basketball team of Cherokee County took top honors at the state competition held at the Colonial Life Arena on Friday, March 2, 2012; and

Whereas, to the delight of their fans and the dismay of their opponents, the Gaffney Indians defeated the Lexington Wildcats in a nail‑biting overtime finish of 58‑55 to earn the team’s fifth state title in ten years, making the team the most dominant team of the decade in class AAAA; and

Whereas, three Indians scored in the double digits: sophomore L. J. Peak with a game‑high 22 points, Quinshad Davis with 15, and Kerry Williams with 12; and

Whereas, Cobby McDowell gave the Indians their final and unchallenged lead in overtime with a short jumper from the baseline, and the Indians made 3 of 6 free throws in the last two minutes of the season to seal the team effort; and

Whereas, as a result of numerous injuries and accumulated fouls, both teams had key players on the bench in overtime, but the Gaffney tribe that had turned out in record numbers to support the team cheered the Indians on to victory; and

Whereas, with a 23‑5 record for the season, the Indians successfully recaptured the state title from Lexington, which has fallen to Gaffney for two of the last three years in the final game; and

Whereas, in a sport that demands speed, strength, and skill, the Gaffney basketball team has endured relentless workouts and demanding practices that enabled the players to “dig deep” in the final minutes of their championship game; and

Whereas, for the last fifteen years, Head Coach Mark Huff and his skilled coaching staff have used their own athletic ability and training to forge championship teams and teach these athletes lessons that will prove invaluable through life both on and off the court; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the pride and recognition that the Gaffney High School 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 Gaffney High School varsity boys basketball team, coaches, and school officials for an outstanding season, and congratulate them for winning the 2012 Class AAAA State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Marlene Davis and Coach Mark Huff.

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