**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR AND CONGRATULATE COACH ARIC SAMUEL OF HARTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL ON BEING NAMED 2011‑2012 *HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT* CLASS AAA BASKETBALL COACH OF THE YEAR.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that Coach Aric Samuel of Hartsville High School has been named 2011‑2012 *High School Sports Report* Class AAA Coach of the Year for basketball; and

Whereas, on March 3, 2012, Coach Samuel became the first Hartsville High boys basketball coach to lead the Red Foxes to a state championship, completing a journey that began in the early 1990s when he and the legendary Roderick “Moo Moo” Blakney, as students, became the most prolific scoring duo in program history while helping to elevate the Hartsville basketball program to a much higher profile in the state hoops community; and

Whereas, Aric Samuel went on to play basketball for four years at South Carolina State and entered his coaching career right out of college. At that time, he caught the attention of Lewis Lineberger, then athletics director and football coach at Hartsville, who called to ask if Coach Samuel wanted to come back home to coach. The offer tempted, but the young Aric Samuel felt he needed more experience before he considered coaching in his hometown; and

Whereas, instead, he began his coaching career at Hunter‑Kinard‑Tyler High School as head coach. In his debut season as the school’s head coach, he led Hunter‑Kinard‑Tyler to twenty‑two wins. Between 2002 and 2005, the Trojans had a great four‑year playoff run, taking the title in 2005; and

Whereas, Aric Samuel’s success caused Dr. Charlie Burry, Hartsville High School principal, to make it his quest to persuade the former Hartsville basketball standout to return home as coach. Convinced Coach Samuel was the man the school needed to turn the boys basketball program around, Dr. Burry persisted and succeeded in his quest; and

Whereas, knowing Hartsville had been winning state titles in football, baseball, girls basketball, and softball for years, but never in boys basketball, was an additional draw for Coach Samuel. It made the challenge of hoisting a boys hoops state‑championship banner at his alma mater irresistible; and

Whereas, by the 2010‑2011 season, Samuel had his kind of team in place, a deep one that was sold on his defense‑first concept, and he entered the 2011‑2012 season with a team that had the talent, the motivation, and the work ethic to reach the top; and

Whereas, the Red Foxes delivered during their first full season in the school’s new gymnasium, taking home their first‑ever state boys basketball championship trophy. That long‑empty spot on the gym wall now boasts a banner proclaiming the good news, and native son Coach Aric Samuel truly has come full circle in his outstanding basketball career; and

Whereas, appreciative of his continued commitment and excellence as a coach and role model to his athletes, the House of Representatives takes great pleasure in recognizing Coach Aric Samuel of Hartsville High School on receiving the well‑deserved title of 2011‑2012 *High School Sports Report* Class AAA Basketball Coach of the Year. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, honor and congratulate Coach Aric Samuel of Hartsville High School on being named 2011‑2012 *High School Sports Report* Class AAA Basketball Coach of the Year.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Coach Aric Samuel.

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