**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR WILLIAM “BILL” EVANS, HILLCREST HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH AND DEBATE TEAM COACH, AND TO CONGRATULATE HIM UPON BEING NAMED THE 2012 NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR IN SPEECH AND DEBATE.

Whereas, the members of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina are pleased to learn that the National Individual Events Tournament of Champions (NIETOC) selected Bill Evans of Hillcrest High School in Greenville County as the 2012 National Teacher of the Year in Speech and Debate; and

Whereas, criteria for selection as NIETOC National Teacher of the Year include at least five years of service with a strong knowledge and understanding of the activity; a strong emphasis on community; a spirit of optimism; generosity both in and out of the speech world with an understanding, appreciation, and respect for diversity; and

Whereas, Coach Evans received the National Teacher of the Year award in recognition of his leadership, dedication, and development of speech and debate opportunities for his students and in recognition of his contribution to the promotion and growth of speech and debate in South Carolina and nationwide; and

Whereas, born in Washington, Georgia, Bill Evans served as a manager at Daniel Construction for thirteen years before becoming an English teacher; and

Whereas, he earned a bachelor’s degree from Berry College in Rome, Georgia, and launched his teaching career in 1989 at Hillcrest High School where he continues to teach; and

Whereas, earning points based on the students’ performance, a coach can only earn one diamond award every five years, and in 2011, Coach Evans was named a Triple Diamond Coach at a tournament in Dallas, Texas; and

Whereas, he was inducted into the Mississippi Speech and Debate Hall of Fame in February 2012 when he attended a tournament in Hattiesburg and the tournament organizers learned that he takes his students to more than twenty‑five tournaments a year, much higher than the average number of tournaments that most schools attempt; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the standard of excellence that Bill Evans has set for his students in speech and debate and for the pride and recognition he has brought to Hillcrest High School, to his community, and to the Palmetto 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 William “Bill” Evans, Hillcrest High School speech and debate team coach, and congratulate him upon being named the 2012 National Teacher of the Year in Speech and Debate.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Bill Evans.

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