**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE DILLON HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR AN OUTSTANDING SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2012 DIVISION I CLASS AA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the members of the Dillon High School varsity football team of Dillon County took top honors for the third time in five years at the state competition on November 30, 2012; and

Whereas, to the jubilation of their fans, the Dillon Wildcats bared their teeth to defeat the Fairfield Central Griffins in a stunning 21‑6 win, finishing the season with a 13‑1 record; and

Whereas, fourteen‑year‑old freshman wonder Avery McCall threw three touchdown passes and completed 13 out of 17 pass attempts for 128 yards, and DeAndre Belton threw for 94 yards and ran for 68 more in 16 carries; and

Whereas, while junior running back Anthony Blue rushed for a total of 202 yards, the mighty Wildcat offense pounded downfield to victory with a total of 301 yards rushing; and

Whereas, the first touchdown of the championship game went to the Wildcats, and when the successful extra‑point kick sailed through the uprights, Wildcat Tara Grimsley became the first female in the history of state football playoffs to land in the scorebooks; and

Whereas, led by Wildcats Dorian Davis, Damu Ford, and Shy’keem Blue, the “Nasty Cat” defense, as their fans admiringly dub them, held the impressive Griffin line to 83 yards in the last 24 minutes of play and succeeded in keeping their opponents out of the end zone in the second half; and

Whereas, in a sport that demands strength, skill, and determination, Head Coach Jackie Hayes, our colleague in the House of Representatives for District 55, and his skilled coaching staff capitalized on their own athletic ability and training to forge a championship team and teach these athletes lessons that will prove invaluable through life both on and off the gridiron; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives appreciate the recognition that the Dillon High School football 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 Dillon High School varsity football team, coaches, and school officials for an outstanding season and congratulate them for winning the 2012 Division I Class AA State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Shawn Johnson and Coach Jackie Hayes.

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