**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE FORESTBROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR AN OUTSTANDING SEASON AND CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2012 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the members of the Forestbrook Middle School mock trial team of Horry County took top honors at the 2012 State Middle School Mock Trial Competition held in Columbia on December 7‑8, 2012; and

Whereas, mock trials give students a vivid picture of typical trial protocol, stages, and techniques through hands‑on experience in competitive activities designed to teach students courtroom and trial techniques used in litigation; and

Whereas, each year, the American Mock Trial Association creates a fictitious case for middle schools to prepare for competition, and from this case students assume roles of attorneys and witnesses and compete in a “mock” trial moderated by judges who critique students based on their understanding and practice of standard forms of litigation, such as opening statements, direct and cross examination of witnesses, objections, and closing arguments; and

Whereas, in 2008, Forestbrook Middle School resurrected its mock trial team, and that year, the Forestbrook Gators placed among the top teams in the coastal region and finished fourth in the state competition; and

Whereas, in 2009, Forestbrook claimed the state trophy in only the second year of its renewed competition in mock trials, and the team repeated the feat in 2010 to claim back‑to‑back state championship titles; and

Whereas, in 2011, the Forestbrook mock trial team entered the state competition for the fourth year in a row but was denied a triple crown by placing a mere two points behind the winning team; and

Whereas, in the 2012 competition, the middle school students from Forestbrook garnered their third state championship with an exceptional performance; and

Whereas, individual awards winners at the state meet included Ashley Jones, named twice as Most Effective Attorney; Cinthia Zavala, named Most Effective Attorney; and Josephine Kirkman, named twice as Most Effective Witness; and

Whereas, in a demanding discipline, Coach Lisa M. Aglietti and her dedicated coaching staff, Attorney Gene Vaught and Attorney Scott Hucks, capitalized on their own legal acuity and training to mold a championship team and teach these students lessons that will prove invaluable through life both in and out of the courtroom; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina appreciates the recognition that the Forestbrook Middle School mock trial team members have brought to their school and their community and looks 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 Forestbrook Middle School mock trial team, coaches, and school officials for an outstanding season and congratulate them for winning the 2012 State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal April Scott and Coach Lisa M. Aglietti.

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