**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE THE IRMO HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER TEAM ON ITS EXCELLENT SEASON AND IMPRESSIVE WIN OF THE 2013 CLASS AAAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP, AND TO EXTEND HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS TO IRMO COACH PHIL SAVITZ WHO CONCLUDED HIS SOCCER COACHING CAREER AT IRMO AFTER THIRTY‑THREE YEARS WITH FOURTEEN STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Whereas, supremely ready for the challenge, the Irmo High School boys soccer team won the 2013 Class AAAA State Championship, defeating a fine Lexington team 4‑3 in penalty kicks after no goals were scored in regulation and in four overtime periods; and

Whereas, after 110 minutes of scoreless soccer, Mattison Gossett’s penalty kick took an awkward bounce and trickled into the goal to give the Yellow Jackets their state‑record tying sixteenth state championship after they won the penalty kick portion 4‑3; and

Whereas, this championship sends legendary Irmo Coach Phil Savitz off a winner as he closed his thirty‑three‑year run at the school with his fourteenth state championship and first since 2004. Irmo had lost in its past four appearances in state championship games before breaking the drought with this title win at Gilbert High; and

Whereas, both teams saw scoring opportunities fall by the wayside in regulation and the four overtime periods. Both goalkeepers were up for everything sent in their direction and the back lines were spectacular in keeping it scoreless; and

Whereas, this game will go down as a classic between two teams which never gave up. Irmo finished the season with a 17‑8 record, marking another excellent season for this soccer powerhouse; and

Whereas, such victories do not come overnight; they take determination and hard work. With proven consistency in both, Phil Savitz and his coaches have built their soccer program into one of championship caliber that refuses to settle for second best; and

Whereas, the Yellow Jackets have brought great pride and recognition to their school and community, and the members of the House of Representatives are pleased to have this opportunity to recognize such a wonderful group of young athletes and their outstanding coach. 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 congratulate the Irmo High School boys soccer team on its excellent season and impressive win of the 2013 Class AAAA State Championship, and further extend heartiest congratulations to Irmo Coach Phil Savitz who concluded his soccer coaching career at Irmo after thirty‑three years with fourteen state championships.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Principal Creig Tyler and Coach Paul Savitz of Irmo High School.

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