**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE THE DUTCH FORK HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM AND ITS FINE COACHES ON THEIR IMPRESSIVE WIN OF THE 2013 CLASS AAAA DIVISION I STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, supremely ready for the challenge, the Dutch Fork High School football team drove past Sumter 54‑14 to capture the 2013 Class AAAA Division I State Championship, held on Saturday, December 7, 2013; and

Whereas, Williams‑Brice Stadium in Columbia echoed with the cheers of exuberant Dutch Fork fans, pleased to see their confident predictions of victory realized as a satisfying end to a fine 12‑3 season. By the end of the title game, the Silver Foxes’ admirers were already looking with anticipation toward a repeat performance next year; and

Whereas, such victories do not come overnight; they take determination and hard work. With proven consistency in both, Head Coach Tom Knotts has built his football program into a championship team that refuses to settle for second best; and

Whereas, making a scintillating win even brighter, the championship victory gave the Silver Foxes their first state football title in school history and the Midlands its first Class AAAA football champion since 1993; and

Whereas, fresh from their win over Byrnes prior to the title game, Dutch Fork’s players gave the battle for the crown their all, enabling senior quarterback Derek Olenchuk to finish his Dutch Fork passing record at 3,487 yards and allowing junior running back Matt Colburn to increase his rushing record to 2,488 yards; and

Whereas, the team was awash in recognition of individual standouts, as well, including All‑Region players Derek Olenchuk, Matt Colburn, Deion Frasier, Josh Hutchinson, Omar Staley, Lane Ecton, Mick Lusk, K.J. Williams, Austin Ruger, and Caleb Harris; North‑South All‑Star players Josh Hutchinson and Austin Ruger; and Shrine Bowl player Caleb Harris; and

Whereas, in addition, the *State* newspaper selected five Dutch Fork players for its 2013 All‑Area Football Team: running back Matt Colburn (also chosen as Offensive Player of the Year), receiver Deion Frasier, lineman Omar Staley, linebacker Mick Lusk, and defensive back Lane Ecton. Finally, Coach Tom Knotts was named *High School Sports Report* Region Football Coach of the Year for the fourth consecutive year; and

Whereas, the Silver Foxes 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. 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 Dutch Fork High School football team and its fine coaches on their impressive win of the 2013 Class AAAA Division I State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Greg Owings and Head Coach Tom Knotts of Dutch Fork High School.

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