**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND THE PICKENS HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY VOLLEYBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR A WINNING SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR CAPTURING THE 2013 CLASS AAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the members of the Pickens High School varsity volleyball team of Pickens County emerged victorious from the state competition held at White Knoll High School on November 9, 2013; and

Whereas, the Pickens Lady Blue Flame volleyball team has garnered fourteen state championships since 1980, but this is its first state title since 2008; and

Whereas, undefeated in region play for the second straight year, the Lady Blue Flame entered the state championship game and wrested the state trophy from the North Myrtle Beach High School team that had dashed Pickens’ hopes in the 2012 showdown; and

Whereas, after dominating the first game which ended 25‑12, the Lady Blue Flame fell behind in the second game before a rally that ended in a 25‑23 score for Pickens; and

Whereas, the Blue Flame fans were ecstatic when the team pulled away from North Myrtle Beach and ended in a 25‑15 victory that clenched the state title for Pickens; and

Whereas, the Lady Blue Flame was focused and tenacious, fueled by terrific net play by the front row and relentless pursuit by the back row, rounded out by extraordinary serving and a smart but aggressive offense; and

Whereas, Pickens Head Coach Jennifer Gravely was named 2013 Coach of the Year for volleyball by the South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association after taking her team to its fifth championship title and to a two‑year record of 28‑0 in region play with her at the helm; and

Whereas, in a sport that demands strength, agility, and speed, Coach Gravely and her skilled coaching staff capitalized on their own athletic ability and training to forge a championship team and teach these athletes valuable life lessons both on and off the court; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the pride and recognition that the Pickens High School volleyball players have brought to their school and their community and look to hear of their continued success in the future. 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 commend the Pickens High School varsity volleyball team, coaches, and school officials for a winning season and congratulate them for capturing the 2013 Class AAA State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Marion Lawson and Coach Jennifer Gravely.

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