**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR AMAR WILKINS OF JASPER COUNTY FOR HIS OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC, EXTRACURRICULAR, AND COMMUNITY ENDEAVORS AND TO CONGRATULATE HIM FOR CAPTURING FIRST PLACE IN THE 2013 SENATOR FOR A DAY SPEECH COMPETITION.

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate is pleased to learn of the exceptional achievements of Amar Wilkins of Jasper County, including his recent first‑place finish in the 2013 Senator for a Day Speech Competition, sponsored by South Carolina state Senator Clementa Pinckney; and

Whereas, a resident of Hardeeville, Amar is the son of Connie Brown and grandson of Joseph and Claretha Taliaserro; and

Whereas, this Ridgeland Hardeeville High School senior enjoys participation in numerous organizations. His past or present activities include serving as president of the Hardeeville Youth Commission, volunteering with a bike ride benefiting diabetes, participating in the Marine Corps JROTC (color guard, drill team, rifle team), and serving as captain of the baseball and football teams and as a member of the track, basketball, debate, and JROTC marksmanship teams; and

Whereas, because he believes in active involvement with his community, Amar also has served as a musician at Fisher Chapel United Methodist Church from 2010 to the present. In addition, this pianist/singer is involved in various other church activities and is an intern for the church’s Planning Department and Information Technology Department; and

Whereas, Amar has received many honors for his fine accomplishments, among them the 2011 Board of Trustees Golden Award for Academics, 2012 Military Officers of America Association Award, 2012 Lt. Stacy Henderson Military Leadership Award, 2011 All‑Region Player of the Year Award for baseball, induction into the National Honor Society, and election as vice president of his junior class; and

Whereas, in his winning speech at the annual Senator for a Day contest, Amar articulated the position that the Palmetto State needs new gun‑control laws, in particular a law that would not limit the sale of assault weapons but would make their purchase much more difficult; and

Whereas, as Amar looks forward to the avenues he will follow in the future, his first step will be to earn a bachelor’s degree from Clemson University, which he will attend on an Army ROTC scholarship; and

Whereas, the Senate takes great pleasure in recognizing Amar Wilkins, an outstanding son of South Carolina, and the members extend to him their best wishes and look with interest to hear of his continued achievements in the days ahead. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and honor Amar Wilkins of Jasper County for his outstanding academic, extracurricular, and community endeavors and congratulate him for capturing first place in the 2013 Senator for a Day Speech Competition.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Amar Wilkins.

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