**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE SPRING VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR AN OUTSTANDING SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2016 CLASS AAAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate is pleased to learn that the members of the Spring Valley basketball team of Richland County took top honors at the state competition held at the Colonial Life Arena in Columbia on Friday, March 4, 2016; and

Whereas, to the cheers of their exuberant fans, the Spring Valley Lady Vikings scored and rebounded their way to a 49‑40 victory over Sumter High School and claimed the team’s second straight state championship and its fourth title since 2009; and

Whereas, the seven seniors on the Spring Valley team had decided at the outset of the game that the time for them to win was “right now.” It became their motto on the court throughout the game and proved to be prophetic; and

Whereas, Spring Valley led by as many as fifteen points in the first half, but Sumter’s Lady Gamecocks rallied late in the third quarter to come within five points of the Lady Vikings; and

Whereas, when Spring Valley forced multiple turnovers in Sumter’s first six possessions in the fourth quarter, the Lady Vikings were on the way to another state title; and

Whereas, senior Christian Hithe led her team by posting more than half of Spring Valley’s final score for a game‑high of 26 points and added six steals and four rebounds. She scored her one thousandth point for Spring Valley in the second quarter of her final game and will head to play for the University of Central Florida next season; and

Whereas, teammate Shantay Taylor, who finished with ten points and seven rebounds, has signed to play with Temple University next season; and

Whereas, before Head Coach Anne Long trained the Lady Vikings through four championship seasons, she garnered four titles with Union County from 1984 to 1989. This year’s win puts her tied for the state record in the South Carolina High School League with her eighth title; and

Whereas, in a sport that demands strength, agility, and accuracy, Coach Long and her skilled coaching staff capitalized on their own athletic ability and training to mold a championship team and teach these athletes lessons that will prove invaluable through life both on and off the court; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate value the respect and distinction that the Spring Valley basketball players have brought to their school and their community and look to hear of their continued achievements in the days to come. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and honor the Spring Valley High School girls varsity basketball team, coaches, and school officials for an outstanding season and congratulate them for winning the 2016 Class AAAA State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Jeff Temoney and Coach Anne Long.

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