**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE A.C. FLORA HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM FOR CAPTURING THE 2016 CLASS AAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE AND TO HONOR THE TEAM’S EXCEPTIONAL PLAYERS, COACHES, AND STAFF.

Whereas, fully prepared for the challenge, the A.C. Flora High School boys basketball team crowned an outstanding season by capturing the 2016 Class AAA State Championship title, defeating Midland Valley 60‑50 at the Colonial Life Arena in Columbia on Saturday, March 5, 2016; and

Whereas, with the biggest prize in South Carolina high school boys basketball on the line, the Falcons focused all their knowledge, skill, and determination, took to heart their coaches’ exhortations, and came through like the champions they are. Seizing the crown won them Flora’s fifth boys basketball state title in school history; and

Whereas, the victory felt especially sweet to the Falcons because they broke Midland Valley’s grip on the hardware from 2015, when the Mustangs wrenched the state title from then‑defending state champion A.C. Flora 62‑56. The Flora athletes were determined not to let it happen again and proved their mettle. Further, they won fifteen straight games to close the season; and

Whereas, jubilant Flora fans cheered with excitement as the Falcons, with equal doses of heart and hustle, orchestrated a game that gave sports pundits confidence in predicting a repeat performance for 2017; and

Whereas, having honed his players into a championship machine throughout the season, Coach Joshua Staley saw the fruits of his labors as the title trophy was hoisted; and

Whereas, the Senate takes great pleasure in recognizing the young men of the A.C. Flora High School boys basketball team for leading with excellence both in the classroom and on the court and expects to hear of continued great achievements in the years ahead. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate the A.C. Flora High School boys basketball team for capturing the 2016 Class AAA State Championship title and honor the team’s exceptional players, coaches, and staff.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Richard K. McClure and Coach Joshua Staley of A.C. Flora High School.

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