**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE BATESBURG‑LEESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND ON BEING SELECTED TO PERFORM IN THE 2015 NEW YEAR’S DAY PARADE IN LONDON, ENGLAND.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the Batesburg‑Leesville High School marching band is carrying on in the high tradition of its predecessors, a standing the band’s current members proved when they were selected to perform in the 2015 New Year’s Day Parade in London, England; and

Whereas, the Right Honourable Lord Mayor of London, England, personally visited the Batesburg‑Leesville High School marching band and selected them to enter an international band competition. The Panthers band then was chosen from high school bands throughout the world and awarded the honor of performing in London’s New Year’s Day parade on January 1, 2015; and

Whereas, in order to finance the trip, band members held a marathon of fundraisers and reached their goal of more than $204,000; and

Whereas, one of only a handful of American high schools tapped to perform for the event, the Panthers band played “My Songs Know What You Did in the Dark (Light Em Up)” by Fall Out Boy. The band sported flashing lights on their drums and hats. During the parade, these musicians encountered only one minor problem: the loss of a snare drum from their set. However, they borrowed a drum set from one of the other bands in the parade to help the performance come off seamlessly and won comments like “What a fantastic performance!” from announcers; and

Whereas, Band Director Dustin King, rightly proud of his young musicians, explained that the visit to London, which took place from December 27 to January 3, encompassed more than the band’s parade appearance. In this opportunity of a lifetime, the students were immersed in British history and culture as they visited well‑known landmarks such as the Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, the Tower of London, Buckingham Palace, Hampton Court Palace, Windsor Castle and the Town of Windsor, and the Royal Observatory in Greenwich. They also toured various areas of the city that highlighted different aspects of London’s culture, for example, the royal family, the relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom, and the infamous Jack the Ripper; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives is grateful for the pride and recognition the Batesburg‑Leesville High School marching band has brought to its school and community and looks to hear of the band’s continued accomplishments in the days ahead. 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 honor the Batesburg‑Leesville High School marching band on being selected to perform in the 2015 New Year’s Day Parade in London, England.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Raymond P. Padgett and Band Director Dustin King of Batesburg‑Leesville High School.

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