**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON BASEBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR AN OUTSTANDING SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2014 COLONIAL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the members of the College of Charleston baseball team took top honors at the 2014 Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) competition; and

Whereas, in the first year as Colonial Athletic Association members, the College of Charleston hoisted the 2014 CAA Championship trophy by claiming three consecutive wins in the CAA Tournament; and

Whereas, in the NCAA Tournament, the College of Charleston became the first four-seed ever to sweep an NCAA Regional, taking out SEC Champion and national second-seed Florida in the process, to advance to the Cougars’ second‑ever NCAA Super Regional; and

Whereas, the Cougar baseball team posted a 44‑19 overall season record and extended their season beyond that of any other team in South Carolina and finished the season with the highest ranking of any team in the Palmetto State; and

Whereas, the College of Charleston’s pitching and defense were staples for the baseball team’s 2014 success, which set new program records in team ERA (2.73) and fielding percentage (.973); and

Whereas, Cougar freshman Bailey Ober was named the NCBWA Freshmen Pitcher of the Year, picking up Freshman All‑American and ABCA All‑Region honors along the way, finishing with a 10‑3 record and 1.52 ERA, and leading all NCAA freshmen pitchers; and

Whereas, slugger Nick Pappas was another Freshman All‑American who made a big late‑season impact as the Cougar’s first baseman. In eight postseason games, he hit two home runs and three doubles while driving in six RBIs for a slugging percentage of .621; and

Whereas, besides claiming their first‑ever CAA Championship, five Cougar stand-outs were named to the all‑tournament team, including Bailey Ober, the Tournament Most Outstanding Player; Nick Pappas; Ben Boykin; Tyler Thornton; and Carl Wise; and

Whereas, the College of Charleston Cougar baseball team finished the 2014 season ranked sixteenth in the nation according to *Collegiate Baseball*, marking the program’s second‑highest year‑end national ranking. The team held a national rank of seventh for fewest walks and hits per innings pitched (WHIP) with 1.11 and ranked eighth in the nation for strikeout‑to‑walk ratio (2.89); and

Whereas, in a sport that demands strength, strategy, and quickness, Head Coach Monte Lee and his 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 diamond; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives appreciate the pride and recognition that the College of Charleston baseball players have brought to their institution and to the Palmetto State and look to hear of their 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 College of Charleston baseball team, coaches, and school officials for an outstanding season and congratulate them for winning the 2014 Colonial Athletic Association Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Coach Monte Lee.

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