**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE SUMTER HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM FOR CAPTURING THE 2015 CLASS AAAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE AND TO HONOR THE TEAM’S EXCEPTIONAL PLAYERS, COACHES, AND STAFF.

Whereas, fully prepared for the challenge, the Sumter High School boys basketball team crowned an outstanding season by capturing the 2015 Class AAAA State Championship title, defeating Hillcrest 61‑55 at the Colonial Life Arena in Columbia on Friday, March 6, 2015; and

Whereas, with the biggest prize in South Carolina high school boys basketball on the line, the Gamecocks 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 Sumter’s first boys basketball state title since 1985 and their fourth overall; and

Whereas, Sumter (20‑7) built a 19‑point first‑half lead and led 39‑25 at the half on the strength of shooting 75 percent (15‑of‑20) from the field. The Gamecocks never trailed, and they held Hillcrest scoreless over the final one minute and twenty-seven seconds to seal the win; and

Whereas, jubilant Sumter fans cheered with excitement as the Gamecocks, with equal doses of heart and hustle, orchestrated a game that gave sports pundits confidence in predicting a repeat performance for 2016; and

Whereas, Head Coach Stephen “Jo Jo” English, ably assisted by Reynard Jefferson, Jeff Schaffer, Louis Dreher, Richard Hampton, and Patrick Bones of Sumter’s excellent coaching staff, had honed his players into a championship machine and saw the fruits of his labors as the title trophy was hoisted; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives takes great pleasure in recognizing the young men of the Sumter 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 House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate the Sumter High School boys basketball team for capturing the 2015 Class AAAA 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 Dana Fall and Head Coach Stephen English of Sumter High School.

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