**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA SUMTER BASEBALL TEAM FOR AN OUTSTANDING SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2015 NATIONAL JUNIOR COLLEGE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION EASTERN DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to learn that the University of South Carolina Sumter (USCS) baseball team took top honors at the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Eastern District championship held at Mitchell Athletic Complex in Uniondale, New York, on Sunday, May 17, 2015; and

Whereas, USCS defeated the Potomac State College Catamounts from West Virginia in a decisive second game following Potomac’s 5‑2 win in the opening game; and

Whereas, after letting the Eastern District trophy slip from their grasp in 2014, the USC Sumter Fire Ants were determined to take the title this year; and

Whereas, Sumter’s sophomore right‑hander, Victor Gonzalez, allowed only one run on one hit through the first six innings to maintain a 3-1 lead in the winner‑take‑all contest; and

Whereas, after the Catamounts loaded the bases with no outs in the seventh inning and scored one run on a RBI ground-out, the Fire Ants responded by striking out the next batter and ending the inning with a ground-out on a fielder’s choice; and

Whereas, the Fire Ants scored an insurance run in the eighth inning and held the Catamounts to two scoreless innings to win the title 4‑2; and

Whereas, Justin Hawkins and Tee Dubose each scored two runs for Sumter in the championship game while Dillon Heffner and Fred Wadsworth provided big hits; and

Whereas, the NJCAA Eastern District title earned the Fire Ants a berth at the Junior College World Series for the first time in the baseball program’s history; and

Whereas, Head Coach Tim Medlin and his skilled coaching staff capitalized on their athletic ability and training to forge this championship team, teaching these baseball players valuable life lessons; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the honor and distinction that the USC Sumter baseball players have brought to their university and our State and look to hear of their continued success in the days ahead. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognizes and honors the members of the University of South Carolina Sumter baseball team for an outstanding season and congratulate them for winning the 2015 National Junior College Athletic Association Eastern District Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Coach Tim Medlin.

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