**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE LIMESTONE COLLEGE MEN’S LACROSSE TEAM AND COACHES FOR AN OUTSTANDING SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2015 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (NCAA) CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the members of the Limestone College men’s lacrosse team of Cherokee County captured the top national honors at the NCAA lacrosse competition held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on Sunday, May 24, 2015; and

Whereas, those fans who traveled to see Limestone play in Philadelphia were not disappointed as the City of Brotherly Love brought the Saints a 9‑6 victory over Le Moyne College; and

Whereas, although the Saints trailed behind Le Moyne 6‑5 late in the game, Limestone rallied in the fourth quarter when Mike Messenger scored three goals in the final quarter, posting a game tally of four goals and one assist and earning Most Outstanding Player honors for him in the championship game; and

Whereas, in nine appearances in the national championship game, the Saints have garnered four national lacrosse titles, the last two in consecutive seasons. Their title in 2000 made Limestone the smallest co‑educational institution to win a national championship; and

Whereas, Limestone recorded a phenomenal 20‑1 season, setting the NCAA Division II record for most wins in a season, and the Saints posted a 39‑2 record for the past two seasons; and

Whereas, having taken seventeen regular season conference titles back to back, Limestone College has set the bar high for the sport of lacrosse in the South. Just twenty‑five years ago, Limestone inaugurated the first collegiate lacrosse program in the Palmetto State; and

Whereas, Limestone fans are already prophesying a third straight championship for the Saints, who only played two seniors in this year’s championship game and who have a seasoned team of underclassmen returning for next spring’s season; and

Whereas, in his fifth year as head coach, J.B. Clarke, along with his skilled coaching staff, capitalized on his own athletic ability and training to build a championship program and team and to teach these athletes lessons that will prove invaluable through life; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives values the pride and recognition that the Limestone lacrosse players have brought to their school and to the Palmetto State, and the members look to hear of their continued achievements 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 Limestone College men’s lacrosse team and coaches for an outstanding season and congratulate them for winning the 2015 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Coach J.B. Clarke.

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