**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE ST. JAMES HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS VARSITY GOLF TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR AN OUTSTANDING SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2015 CLASS AAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the members of the St. James High School girls varsity golf team of Horry County took top honors at the state competition held at Barony Golf Club in Hilton Head Island on Monday and Tuesday, October 26 and 27, 2015; and

Whereas, to the elation of their fans and the golfers themselves, the St. James Lady Sharks defeated their nearest competitor, Travelers Rest High School, by seven strokes to take the state trophy, a feat that had evaded the team for the past two years; and

Whereas, in 2013, the team placed third in the State, but in 2014, St. James could only close the gap enough to grasp the second place finish; and

Whereas, on October 16, 2015, when the Lady Sharks won the Lower State tournament by 28 strokes over runner‑up Hilton Head High School on the Hackler Course at Coastal Carolina University, they felt confident they could accomplish their goal of bringing home the championship; and

Whereas, St. James’ freshman Smith Knaffle, defending her Lower State individual title, shot a 73 to earn medalist honors by a stroke in the regional tournament; and

Whereas, in the Lower State, three of the top five scores came from St. James and five of the top ten. Earlier in the year, they had also won the Lady Blue Jacket Invitational and the Lady Patriot Invitational in North Charleston; and

Whereas, Kelli Smith and Smith Knaffle were named to the All‑State team from among the Lady Sharks’ lineup that also included Katie Smith, Steely Hays, and Jordan White; and

Whereas, in a sport that demands strategy and proficiency on the fairways and greens, Head Coach Denise Noll and her skilled coaching staff maximized their own athletic ability and training to hone a championship team and teach these athletes lessons that will prove invaluable on the fairways of life; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the pride and recognition that the St. James golfers have brought to their school and their community 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 St. James High School girls varsity golf team, coaches, and school officials for an outstanding season and congratulate them for winning the 2015 Class AAA State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Vann Pennell and Coach Denise Noll.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑