**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND THE HARTSVILLE NORTHERN DIXIE YOUTH BASEBALL LEAGUE MAJORS TEAM AND COACHES FOR AN EXCEPTIONAL SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR CAPTURING THE 2015 DIXIE YOUTH BASEBALL WORLD SERIES MAJORS CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the Hartsville Northern Dixie Youth Baseball League Majors of Darlington County took top honors at the state competition held in Lexington on Thursday, August 13, 2015; and

Whereas, after taking the South Carolina state championship on July 23, 2015, the Hartsville Northern team traveled to Lexington to represent the Palmetto State at the World Series; and

Whereas, to the delight of their exuberant fans, the Hartsville Northern Majors ran through the Southeast’s best teams in six days, finishing undefeated in six games, five of which victories came by way of mercy rule; and

Whereas, Hartsville’s baseballers defeated their final opponents from Louisiana 15‑3 to garner the championship title; and

Whereas, Hartsville’s Owen Taylor, A’shani McFarland, and Jenkins McCullum each posted five home runs during the tournament while teammates Dariyan Pendergrass, McIver Wallace, and Tyler Lawhon hit four home runs apiece. The Hartsville team hit thirty‑two of the total seventy home runs during the games of the 2015 World Series; and

Whereas, Hartsville Northern broke numerous Dixie Youth Majors World Series records: the team set a new Dixie Youth tournament record of thirty‑two home runs, including a record eleven in one game and another record four in a row. Hartsville scored ninety‑eight runs to establish a new high for total runs in the tournament; and

Whereas, from the mound, Hartsville struck out fifty‑two batters, another tournament high, and allowed only eight runs and thirteen hits, both tournament lows, while the team faced the fourth greatest number of batters and pitched the third highest number of innings; and

Whereas, the victory was made so much sweeter as the Hartsville Northern Leagues’ coach‑pitch team had just won the Dixie Youth class AA World Series in North Myrtle Beach on August 6; and

Whereas, in a sport that demands strategy and strength, the coaching staff, consisting of Rodney Morris, Kyle Elmore, and Ken Lawhon, capitalized on their own athletic ability and training and their deep love of baseball to forge this championship team and instill lessons into these athletes that will remain with them throughout life on and off the diamond; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the respect and acclaim that the Hartsville baseball players have showered on their community and expect to see their future success 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 commend the Hartsville Northern Dixie Youth Baseball League Majors team and coaches for an exceptional season and congratulate them for capturing the 2015 Dixie Youth Baseball World Series Majors Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Coach Rodney Morris.

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