**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE CALHOUN ACADEMY VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR AN OUTSTANDING SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2015 SOUTH CAROLINA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ASSOCIATION CLASS AA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the members of the Calhoun Academy football team of St. Matthews took top honors at the state competition held at the Charlie W. Johnson Stadium on the campus of Benedict College in Columbia on November 21, 2015; and

Whereas, to the elation of their faithful and exuberant fans, the Calhoun Academy Cavaliers defeated Bethesda Academy from Savannah, Georgia, 28‑7, an undefeated team until the championship game; and

Whereas, the Cavaliers used a rushing game packed with speed to go outside of the Bethesda Blazer linemen and an effective passing game to counter the Blazer defenders, a plan that was executed so well in the first half that Calhoun took an impressive 28‑7 lead at the half, and Bethesda never recovered; and

Whereas, using a balanced offense for Calhoun, senior tailback Maxwell Moore carried 10 times for 69 yards and caught two passes for 34 yards, despite playing with his left arm in a cast after breaking his hand shortly before the playoffs. Senior quarterback Will Spiers completed 12 of 19 passes for 191 yards and a touchdown while junior Fuller Prickett rushed the ball 12 times for 50 yards and three touchdowns and caught three passes for 31 yards; and

Whereas, leading the defense for the Cavaliers, senior linebacker Blake Huddleston pounded the Blazers with 14 tackles; junior defensive back Elijah Ott made 10 tackles, and senior defensive lineman Giuliano Decanini took eight tackles to the Blazers and deflected a pass; and

Whereas, with ten seniors and ten juniors, the Calhoun Academy football team recovered from personal injuries and team losses by one point that came back‑to‑back during the regular season to polish off the season with the 2015 state title and trophy, the team’s first in eleven years; and

Whereas, in a sport that demands strength, expertise, and determination, the Cavaliers posted a remarkable 10‑3 record, defeating Spartanburg Christian Academy 29‑7 on the way to the final game, a team that had given Calhoun a mark in the loss column during the regular season; and

Whereas, Head Coach Bill Spiers, in his first season leading the Cavaliers, and his skilled coaching staff capitalized on their own athletic experience and training to forge a championship‑caliber team and teach these athletes lessons that will prove invaluable through life both on and off the field; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives value the pride and recognition that the Calhoun Academy football players have brought to their school and their community and 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 Calhoun Academy varsity football team, coaches, and school officials for an outstanding season and congratulate them for winning the 2015 South Carolina Independent School Association Class AA State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Headmaster Mims L. Taylor and Coach Bill Spiers.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑