**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO CELEBRATE THE LAURENCE MANNING ACADEMY GIRLS SOFTBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR THEIR STELLAR SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM ON CAPTURING THE 2016 SOUTH CAROLINA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (SCISA) CLASS AAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

Whereas, knowing they had a high reputation to uphold, the members of the Laurence Manning Academy (LMA) girls softball team played with great determination and spirit at the 2016 SCISA Class AAA State Championship and won the title and crown; and

Whereas, having earned six previous state titles, the most recent in 2011, the Lady Swampcats made it seven by capturing the top prize with a well‑earned 9‑1 victory over Thomas Sumter Academy at Lakewood on Thursday, May 19, 2016; and

Whereas, in winning the best‑of‑three series, LMA swept the defending SCISA AAA state champion off its pedestal, a state of affairs that made the victory all the more special; and

Whereas, the Laurence Manning players, who finished the season 18‑10, knew that if they were going to win, they had to do it as a team. Their strong bond was the key difference for the Lady Swampcats; and

Whereas, Head Coach Maria Rowland, drawing on her own considerable talents and skills, molded her team members into champions and proudly watched her players hoist the title trophy. The win also marked Coach Rowland’s seventh state title; and

Whereas, the journey to winning the state title required discipline, dedication, and teamwork, qualities that always will serve these young women well both on and off the diamond. With admiration, the General Assembly recognizes and applauds the outstanding work of the Laurence Manning Academy girls softball team and wishes its members much continued success in all their future endeavors. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, celebrate the Laurence Manning Academy girls softball team, coaches, and school officials for their stellar season and congratulate them on capturing the 2016 South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA) Class AAA State Championship.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Dr. Spencer A. Jordan, headmaster, and Head Coach Maria Rowland of Laurence Manning Academy.

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