**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE KEENAN HIGH SCHOOL BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR AN OUTSTANDING SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2015 CLASS AA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate is pleased to learn that the members of the Keenan High School basketball team of Richland County took top honors at the state competition at the Colonial Life Arena in Columbia on Saturday, March 7, 2015; and

Whereas, to the delight of their fans, the Keenen Raiders bested Ridgeland‑Hardeeville High School with a 69‑46 win, giving the Raiders their seventh state trophy, five of those under Head Coach Zach Norris. The final game’s twenty‑three point spread brought their season‑average victory margin to twenty‑five points; and

Whereas, before the game, the athletes were encouraged to win the title for Keenan alumni who had preceded them and for their three seniors: Kendric Gathers, Javontae Davis, and Antwan Holmes; and

Whereas, Kendric Gathers worked his way into basketball shape after helping the Keenan football team get to the state championship game and participating in the North‑South All‑Star game, and he did shape up in style, taking the team’s point guard position and running the team’s offense and defense. Five proved to be his lucky number in the championship game: he posted five points, five rebounds, and five assists; and

Whereas, Javontae Davis played with enthusiasm and contributed a significant nine points and eight rebounds to the title triumph; and

Whereas, the third senior, Antwan Holmes, led the team in scoring in the championship game with twenty‑seven points and grabbed eight rebounds, living up to his coach’s description of him as a “man amongst boys”; and

Whereas, adding to the delight of their success in the final game, the players learned after the victory that each would be fitted for a championship letter jacket, courtesy of Ray Allen, currently a free agent following an eighteen‑year NBA career. The team’s associate head coach James Smith had coached Ray Allen at Hillcrest High School when that team won the 1993 state Class AAAA title; and

Whereas, Coach Norris urged his players all season to take pride in their team: first he lengthened their practices with wind sprints, then issued one‑game suspensions, and finally brought Keenan alumni to deliver motivational addresses to them before their games; and

Whereas, in a sport that demands strength and agility, speed and accuracy, Coach Norris and his skilled coaching staff capitalized on their own athletic ability and training to hone a championship team and teach these athletes lessons that will prove invaluable through life both on and off the court; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate appreciate the pride and recognition that the Keenan High School basketball players 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 Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and honor the Keenan High School boys varsity basketball team, coaches, and school officials for an outstanding season and congratulate them for winning the 2015 Class AA State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Alvin D. Pressley and Coach Zach Norris.

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