**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA EQUESTRIAN TEAM AND ITS COACHES ON A STELLAR SEASON AND TO CELEBRATE THEIR WIN OF THE 2015 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE EQUESTRIAN ASSOCIATION NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.

Whereas, on Saturday, April 18, 2015, number 3 South Carolina upset number 1 Georgia 10‑6 to win the National Collegiate Equestrian Association National Championship, held in Waco, Texas. The Gamecocks, however, are no strangers to coming out on top at the national level; and

Whereas, the University of South Carolina’s 2015 riders, refusing to rest on their laurels, competed with distinction, successfully rising to claim the prize two previous USC equestrian teams had captured in 2005 and 2007. It was a sweet feeling to pack up that third national championship trophy; and

Whereas, the title victory gave South Carolina a 12‑5 record to finish off the 2014‑2015 season; and

Whereas, in the course of taking the crown, the Gamecocks defeated United Equestrian Conference champion Fresno State, Big 12 Champion Baylor, and SEC Champion Georgia in a span of thirty‑six hours; and

Whereas, the Gamecocks wasted no time putting Georgia away in the reining, winning the event 3‑1 to knock off the defending SEC and national champion Bulldogs. Georgia won the first point, but Carolina went on to win the final three points to secure the championship victory. In her final ride as a Gamecock, senior Layla Choate beat Kyndall Harper 137.5‑135.5. Fellow USC senior Cody McMillion rode next and posted the highest reining score in the championship meet, knocking off Lauren Garmon 138‑129.5. Going in with a Carolina 8‑6 lead at her back and needing one point or a tie to win the meet, junior Sarah Bouchard dropped Georgia’s Lauren Tieche 136.5‑128 to clinch the championship for South Carolina; and

Whereas, Head Coach Boo Major, with the capable assistance of his coaching staff, Ruth Sorrel and Hillary Dobbs, forged a championship equestrian team that refused to settle for second best. Through rigorous practices and demanding drills, Coach Major set a standard of excellence and instilled a depth of character that will remain invaluable in the lives of these athletes; and

Whereas, grateful for the pride and recognition the members of the University of South Carolina equestrian team have brought to their school and the Palmetto State, the Senate looks forward to hearing of the team’s continued accomplishments in the years to come. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate the University of South Carolina equestrian team and its coaches on a stellar season and celebrate their win of the 2015 National Collegiate Equestrian Association National Championship.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Dr. Harris Pastides, president, and Head Coach Boo Major of the University of South Carolina.

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