**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO SALUTE THE DUTCH FORK HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR A TREMENDOUS SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM ON CAPTURING THE 2016 CLASS AAAAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, on December 17, 2016, at Columbia’s Williams‑Brice Stadium, the Dutch Fork High School football team capped an extraordinary 15‑0 season by taking home the state championship title, having given ecstatic Silver Fox fans a chance to watch Dutch Fork rack up its first perfect season in school history; and

Whereas, the Silver Foxes rolled past Boiling Springs to grab the state football championship 28‑21. The win gained Dutch Fork its second state title making it the first Midlands team to go 15‑0 since 2001. It was also the school’s first championship in AAAAA; and

Whereas, Coach Tom Knotts and his skilled coaching staff used their fine athletic expertise and training to forge a championship team and teach these athletes valuable life lessons that will prove useful both on and off the gridiron; and

Whereas, making a sweet victory even sweeter for Coach Knotts was his team’s selection for a coveted spot in the final *USA Today* Super 25 poll for high school football. Dutch Fork was ranked 21st in the country; and

Whereas, in addition, *USA Today* High School Sports announced that Coach Knotts was named the 2016 American Family Insurance Coach of the Year. Two of his players were named to the 2016 ALL‑USA South Carolina Football Team, seniors Malik Sumter (Second Team offense) and Bobby Irby (First Team defense); and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to honor the Dutch Fork football players for the pride and recognition they have brought to their school and community, and the members anticipate with interest hearing of their future success. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, salute the Dutch Fork High School football team, coaches, and school officials for a tremendous season and congratulate them on capturing the 2016 Class AAAAA State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Greg Owings and Coach Tom Knotts of Dutch Fork High School.

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