**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE CHAPMAN HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2016 SOUTH CAROLINA CLASS AAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the members of the Chapman High School football team of Spartanburg County took top honors at the state competition held at the University of South Carolina Williams-Brice Stadium in Columbia on Saturday, December 17, 2016; and

Whereas, to the delight of their exuberant fans, the Chapman High Panthers defeated Dillon High School 29-27 to capture the school’s first-ever state championship title in any boys’ sport and denied Dillon the opportunity to be the first South Carolina team to win five back-to-back state titles; and

Whereas, the two teams were tied 21-21 when they took to the lockers for halftime. In the second half Dillon would only score six points, too few to take the title; and

Whereas, with the Panthers trailing 27-24 at the beginning of the fourth quarter, Chapman’s Carlos Montalvo-Corrales delivered a punt inside the Dillon one-yard line. On the next play, Panther Zach Johnson tackled Dillon’s ball carrier in the end zone for a safety, narrowing the score to 27-26; and

Whereas, Montalvo-Corrales made a field goal with less than ten minutes remaining in the championship game, ending the scoring for both teams and securing the Panthers’ 29-27 win; and

Whereas, Chapman quarterback Colton Bailey completed twelve of twenty passes for 179 yards while teammate D. J. Twitty rushed forty-four times for 202 yards; and

Whereas, Panther Patrick Phongsat, who missed the previous two games due to a knee injury, caught six passes for 96 yards and a touchdown, and Richard Tucker caught five passes for 79 yards. Chapman defensive standout Anthony Brown had a team-high thirteen tackles, including two for a Dillon loss; and

Whereas, in a sport that demands strength, expertise, and determination, Head Coach Mark Hodge and his skilled coaching staff capitalized on their own athletic ability and training to forge a championship-caliber team and teach these athletes lessons that will prove invaluable through life both on and off the gridiron; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives appreciate the pride and recognition that the Chapman 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 Chapman High School varsity football team, coaches, and school officials for an extraordinary season and congratulate them for winning the 2016 South Carolina Class AAA State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Ty Dawkins and Coach Mark Hodge.

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