**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE CESURIAN “CEZ” CHAMPAGNE, BAPTIST HILL MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL HEAD COACH FOR BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL, ON BEING NAMED 2017 CLASS A REGION AAAA COACH OF THE YEAR.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is delighted to learn that Cesurian “Cez” Champagne, Baptist Hill Middle High School head coach for boys varsity basketball, has been named 2017 Class A Region AAAA Coach of the Year; and

Whereas, Coach Champagne, breaking new ground in her present coaching position, is one of the first women to coach a boys high school basketball squad in the State. Since she took over the boys basketball program in 2015, she has turned Baptist Hill into a championship team, as evidenced by the Bobcats’ 15-7 overall record and 12‑0 region record, which netted them the 2017 Class A Region AAAA championship title; and

Whereas, her own training and experience have prepared Coach Champagne for excellence and success in her field. She was a star basketball player at Middleton High School in the late 1990s and played at both East Tennessee State and Charleston Southern, from which she graduated. She later furthered her education with a master’s degree in teaching (physical education) from The Citadel. In addition, she served as girls varsity basketball head coach for First Baptist Church School, St. John’s High (head coach, JV; assistant coach, varsity), James Island Charter, and Military Magnet Academy (also volleyball head coach) before taking on the position of girls varsity coach at Baptist Hill in 2011. In 2015, Marion Brown, Baptist Hill’s athletic director, knew he had the right candidate for the just‑vacated position of boys basketball coach in Cez Champagne. It was just a matter of convincing her that she was the right person for the job. He succeeded in persuading her, and the rest is history; and

Whereas, it didn’t take long for her players to buy into having Cez Champagne as their coach. As one of her athletes said, “She knows the game, and she knows how to get the most out of us. She’s a great coach”; and

Whereas, other awards have come Coach Champagne’s way. She was named Region AAAAAA Co‑Coach of the Year for volleyball (2009), her girls basketball teams were Region AAAAAA champions five times (2006, 2007, 2008, 2012, 2014), and she was selected as Region AAAAAA Coach of the Year for girls basketball (2012, 2014); and

Whereas, the members of the House of Representatives, appreciative of Cez Champagne’s gifts as both basketball coach and exemplar to her team, take great pleasure in recognizing her on receiving the 2017 Class A Region AAAA Coach of the Year award. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate Cesurian “Cez” Champagne, Baptist Hill Middle High School head coach for boys varsity basketball, on being named 2017 Class A Region AAAA Coach of the Year.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Coach Cez Champagne.

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