**A** **SENATE 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, the Dutch Fork High School football team won the state football championship 28‑21 on December 17, 2016 at Columbia’s Williams‑Brice Stadium. The win gained Dutch Fork its second state title and the school’s first championship in AAAAA; and

Whereas, the Silver Foxes capped an extraordinary 15‑0 season with their win over Boiling Springs. This winning team gave Dutch Fork its first perfect season in school history and was the first in the Midlands since 2001 to go undefeated; and

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

Whereas, Dutch Fork was ranked 21st in the country in the final USA Today Super 25 poll for high school football. The coveted spot made a sweet victory even sweeter for Coach Knotts; 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 Senate appreciate the pride and recognition that the Dutch Fork football players have brought to their school and community, and look with interest to hear of their future success. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, 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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