**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE A.R. RUCKER MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMIC CHALLENGE TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR AN OUTSTANDING SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2016‑2017 SOUTH CAROLINA DIVISION II STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the members of the A.R. Rucker Middle School academic challenge team of Lancaster County took top honors at the State competition held at Kershaw County’s Applied Technology Education campus in March 2017; and

Whereas, to the delight of their fans, the Rams’ academic challenge team defeated stout competition to earn the Division II State championship; and

Whereas, with a 32‑22 victory over Pine Ridge Middle School, A.R. Rucker’s secured its first academic challenge team championship; and

Whereas, the team is composed of a group from each of the three grade levels, sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. The eighth‑grade group won first place in the Olde English Consortium’s Regional Tournament on March 8, advancing them to the State championship; and

Whereas, Rucker’s sixth and seventh‑grade groups were able to attend the State championship as part of the team, and one sixth and one seventh grader joined the three eight graders to compete during the final State match; and

Whereas, two five‑student teams from different schools compete during an academic challenge match. During the first two rounds, each team answers questions as a team, but during the final two rounds, individual team members buzz in to answer questions. Question topics include history, culture, math, science, and literature; and

Whereas, in the buzzer round of the State final match, eighth‑grader Louie Prete earned seventeen points for the team, sixth‑grader Torie Johnson earned two points, eighth‑grader Haley Robertson earned two points, seventh‑grader Brayden Russell earned one point, and eighth‑grader Laura Hernandez earned one point; and

Whereas, the A.R. Rucker Middle School academic challenge team was comprised of eighth‑graders Alexis Bryant, Emily Geraghty, Laura Hernandez, Riya Patel, Marilee Perez, Louie Prete, Haley Robertson; seventh‑graders Annabeth Adams, Brayden Russell, Hailey Sims, Elise Tindal; sixth‑graders Landon Gardner, Tori Holland, Torie Johnson, Stephanie Leon, Kristal Lopez, and Suemy Martinez; and

Whereas, in a competition that requires intelligence, aptitude, and presence of mind, Head Coach Robin Parker used her own knowledge and experience to hone a championship‑caliber team and teach these academic athletes lessons that will prove invaluable through life both in and out of competition; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the recognition that the members of the A.R. Rucker Middle School academic challenge team have brought to their school and their community and look to hear of their future success in the days to come. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representative, by this resolution, recognize and honor the A.R. Rucker Middle School academic challenge team, coaches, and school officials for an outstanding season and congratulate them for winning the 2016‑2017 South Carolina Division II State Championship Title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Anita Watts and Head Coach Robin Parker.

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