**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CELEBRATE THE DUTCH FORK HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR A SPECTACULAR SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM ON TAKING HOME THE 2017 CLASS AAAAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, determined to make it two back-to-back state crowns, the Dutch Fork High School football team poured it on to defeat Dorman 28‑27 at the 2017 Class AAAAA State Championship title game, played on Saturday, December 2, 2017, at Columbia’s Williams‑Brice Stadium; and

Whereas, it was also the third championship in five years for Dutch Fork. The Silver Foxes closed the season with a 13-1 record and a twelve‑game winning streak, having avenged its last two losses since 2015; and

Whereas, Dutch Fork’s offense scored its touchdowns on the ground with two each by Bryce Thompson and Ron Hoff, and all capped off with extra points by Ford Williams; and

Whereas, the championship ultimately came down to two critical fourth-quarter stops by the Silver Foxes defense, the first as a result of a fourth-down tackle by linebacker Kyle Ecton and defensive lineman Jamar Walkers, and the other following a two-point conversion attempt stopped short by the collective efforts of safeties Hugh Ryan and Christian Johnson, assisted again by Ecton, to prevent what would have likely been a game-winning score; and

Whereas, such victories do not come overnight; they take determination and hard work. With proven consistency in both, Coach Tom Knotts has built his football program into one of championship caliber that refuses to settle for second best; and

Whereas, the journey to winning the state title required discipline, dedication, and teamwork, qualities that always will serve these young athletes well both on and off the gridiron. With admiration, the House recognizes and applauds the outstanding work of the Dutch Fork High School football team and wishes its members much continued success in all their future endeavors. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, celebrate the Dutch Fork High School football team, coaches, and school officials for a spectacular season and congratulate them on taking home the 2017 Class AAAAA State Championship title.

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

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