**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR COACH LYNN AVANT OF HILLCREST HIGH SCHOOL FOR HER OUTSTANDING CAREER AS BOTH COACH AND EDUCATOR, TO CONGRATULATE HER ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT, AND TO WISH HER MUCH SUCCESS IN ALL HER FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, it is with great pleasure that the South Carolina House of Representatives honors those individuals who give tirelessly of themselves to educate the young people of this great State; and

Whereas, prominent in the roll call of such benefactors to our youth is Hillcrest High School’s retiring volleyball coach Lynn Avant who for more than two decades has instilled in her student athletes the skills and character traits necessary for success in the classroom, on the court, and in the workplace; and

Whereas, a native of Effingham, Lynn Avant earned her bachelor’s degree in physical education at Winthrop College in 1976, having played volleyball, softball, and basketball for her school. In 1978, she began teaching and coaching at Lake City High School, followed by a move in 1980 to Boiling Springs High School, where she remained until 1984. After a period of working for FedEx, she came to Hillcrest High in 1997 as a physical education teacher and volleyball coach. She also has coached girls junior varsity basketball and girls lacrosse at Hillcrest High and has served as a club volleyball coach for seventeen years; and

Whereas, Coach Avant owns an impressive run of success at Hillcrest as volleyball coach that includes five state championships (2006, 2007, 2011, 2012, and 2013). She coached twenty‑two All‑State players, seventy‑seven All‑Region players, and three Gatorade Players of the Year. Thirty‑seven of her players went on to play college volleyball; and

Whereas, in addition, she guided the Rams to fifteen region championships and was named Region Coach of the Year twelve times and HSSR State Coach of the Year twice. In her twenty‑one years at Hillcrest and four at Boiling Springs, Coach Avant won more than seven hundred volleyball games; and

Whereas, fittingly, in the first round of the 2017 Class AAAAA volleyball playoffs, an evening named “Lynn Avant Night,” Coach Avant’s team presented her with a come-from-behind 3-1 win over Fort Mill. Former Hillcrest Principal Steve Chamness said to this dedicated and much‑admired coach in the post-match ceremony: “It takes a lot to become a legend. You certainly are a legend, especially in the volleyball world. Thank you so much for all you’ve done for Hillcrest and for this community.”; and

Whereas, the school’s current principal, Bryan Skipper, added his praise of Coach Avant: “The program she has built at Hillcrest over the years is remarkable. Our program is considered one of the best because of the work she’s put in, her coaches, and the great players that we’ve had.”; and

Whereas, grateful for Lynn Avant’s legacy of consistent commitment and excellence, the South Carolina House of Representatives takes great pleasure in wishing her well as she enters retirement and trusts she will find much enjoyment in the more leisurely pace of 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 Coach Lynn Avant of Hillcrest High School for her outstanding career as both coach and educator, congratulate her on the occasion of her retirement, and wish her much success in all her future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Coach Lynn Avant.

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