**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE LAURENCE MANNING ACADEMY GIRLS SOFTBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR THEIR EXEMPLARY SEASON AND TO RECOGNIZE THEM FOR SECURING THE 2017 SOUTH CAROLINA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ASSOCIATION CLASS 3A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

Whereas, defending their 2016 title, the Laurence Manning Swampcats defeated the Wilson Hall Barons 3‑2, securing back‑to‑back titles; and

Whereas, in a nail‑biter of a game, the Lady Swampcats pulled through with a victory in extra innings with a walk‑off RBI by Maggie Josey. Trailing by one run in the bottom of the seventh inning on Wednesday, May 17, 2017, at the Lakewood High School field, LMA got a much‑needed one‑out RBI double from second baseman Abbie Beard, the only multiple‑base hit of the game, forcing the Lady Barons to face them in extra innings. Maggie answered the call by connecting on a 2‑2 pitch, driving it deep into centerfield to score Ashton Rogers from third base in the eighth inning; and

Whereas, the Lady Barons began the eighth inning with a runner on second. She wouldn’t advance any further as LMA starting pitcher Liz Hussey sat down the remaining batters of the inning with two strikeouts and a groundout. Hussey finished the game with one earned run on seven hits with no walks and eight strikeouts; and

Whereas, this championship marks the eighth overall title for Laurence Manning and Head Coach Maria Rowland. The team finished the season with a record of 26‑9‑1; and

Whereas, Head Coach Maria Rowland has always sought to instill lessons that will benefit her girls both on and off the field. She tries to teach the team members such lessons as “not giving up, pursuing your dreams, and having goals and really trying to teach them things they were going to use later in life after college”; and

Whereas, the journey to winning the state title required perseverance, commitment, and above all teamwork. With admiration, the House of Representatives recognizes and applauds the outstanding work of the Laurence Manning Academy girls softball 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, congratulate the Laurence Manning Academy girls softball team, coaches, and school officials for their exemplary season and recognize them for securing the 2017 South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA) Class 3A State Championship.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Dr. Spencer A. Jordan, headmaster, and Head Coach Maria Rowland of Laurence Manning Academy.

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