**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE LAURENCE MANNING ACADEMY VARSITY BASEBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR AN EXEMPLARY SEASON AND TO APPLAUD THEM FOR WINNING THE 2017 SOUTH CAROLINA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ASSOCIATION CLASS 3A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are delighted to learn that the members of the Laurence Manning baseball team of Clarendon County secured the state championship title on Tuesday, May 16, 2017, at Joe Tronco Field; and

Whereas, sweeping Cardinal Newman in the best of three series, the Swampcats closed out their second consecutive SCISA 3A state championship; and

Whereas, in game two, LMA starting pitcher Andrew Boyd pitched a complete‑game shutout, leading the Swampcats to a 3‑0 victory and finishing the season with a 22‑4 record; and

Whereas, the Swampcats started the game off on the right foot with leadoff batter Cole Hair reaching base on an error. He was moved to second by Buddy Bleasdale’s one‑out single, and put LMA on the board by scoring on Ryan Touchberry’s two‑out single; and

Whereas, in the sixth inning, Laurence Manning added two more runs. Pinch‑hitter Ricky Nettle’s RBI single scored Morgan Morris. Subsequently, Dawson Hatfield was able to score on Cole Hair’s sacrifice fly; and

Whereas, Cardinal Newman launched nine fly balls into the outfield, all safely fielded by Morris, Hair, and Ryan, effectively shutting down the Cardinals; and

Whereas, Head Coach Barry Hatfield was impressed with what his team was able to accomplish, stating, “We had some great seniors, great leadership, and we had a sophomore kid pitch his heart out. It’s all about them”; and

Whereas, capitalizing on his own experience and talents, Coach Hatfield was able to lead his boys to victory and teach them important lessons that will live with them both on and off the field; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the prestige and respect that the Laurence Manning baseball players have brought to their school and community and look forward to hearing of their continued achievements in 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, congratulate the Laurence Manning Academy varsity baseball team, coaches, and school officials for an exemplary season and applaud them for winning the 2017 South Carolina Independent School Association Class 3A State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Spencer A. Jordan, Headmaster, and Head Coach Barry Hatfield.

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