**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE EAST CLARENDON HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY SOFTBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2017 SOUTH CAROLINA CLASS A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the members of the East Clarendon softball team captured top honors at the state competition held on the East Clarendon home field on Wednesday, May 17, 2017; and

Whereas, to the cheers of their faithful fans, the East Clarendon Lady Wolverines overcame a 3‑0 deficit in the second game of the best‑of‑three series to defeat a fine, competitive Dixie High School team with a score of 4‑3, finishing with a 24‑5 season and taking the team’s second state trophy; and

Whereas, the Dixie Lady Hornets scored a run in the top of the first inning and two more in the third inning, but East Clarendon did not post its first run until the bottom of the fourth inning when Gracen Watts got to home, one base at a time, with tactical batting from her teammates to close the lead to 3‑1; and

Whereas, in the bottom of the fifth inning, senior Mikayla Anderson eked out a run for the Lady Wolverines when the throw to home was bobbled, and the lead was narrowed to 3‑2; and

Whereas, the score remained unchanged when East Clarendon entered the bottom of the seventh inning. After posting two outs and facing the bottom of the batting lineup, the Lady Wolverines facing the prospect of playing a third game to determine the state champion before senior Bailey Evans benefitted from a wild throw to first that left her on first base and teammate Zoe McElveen on third. Zoe tied the score 3‑3 when East Clarendon’s Elly Floyd batted the ball into right centerfield, and Bailey Evans secured the championship game when she rounded home plate on Caitlin Timmons’ hit to the right; and

Whereas, East Clarendon’s pitcher Marleigh Floyd threw a six‑hitter game with superb defensive assistance from her teammates in the field; and

Whereas, in a sport that demands strength, strategy, and quickness, Head Coach Lisa Ard and her skilled coaching staff maximized their own experience and passion to hone a championship‑caliber team and provide these athletes with lessons that will prove invaluable through life both on and off the diamond; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives value the pride and recognition that the East Clarendon softball players have brought to their school and their community, and look to hear 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, recognize and honor the East Clarendon High School varsity softball team, coaches, and school officials for an extraordinary season and congratulate them for winning the 2017 South Carolina Class A State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Jason Cook and Coach Lisa Ard.

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