**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE HAMMOND SCHOOL BOYS VARSITY SOCCER TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR AN OUTSTANDING SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2018 SOUTH CAROLINA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ASSOCIATION CLASS 3A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the members of the Hammond School boys soccer team of Richland County took top honors at the state competition held at Cardinal Newman Stadium in Columbia on May 12, 2018; and

Whereas, to the roar of their exuberant fans, the Hammond Skyhawks defeated a fine, competitive Cardinal Newman High School team 3-2 to secure Hammond’s first soccer state championship since 1990; and

Whereas, the match promised to be a nail-biter as both Hammond and Cardinal Newman had captured a victory over the other team during the regular season, so the anticipation was palpable; and

Whereas, after a scoreless first half of the championship game, neither team had posted a goal until more than two minutes into the second half when the Skyhawks’ exchange student from Berlin, Germany, Luca al‑Habash, found the net; and

Whereas, a tumultuous second half ensued as Josh Levy scored another goal for Hammond, giving the Skyhawks a strong 2‑0 lead, but the Cardinals battled back to even the score at 2‑2 with less than twenty minutes of play in the title match; and

Whereas, the Hammond defense staved off any more threats from the Cardinals, and Luca al‑Habash then scored the third and game-winning point in the final seconds of play to give the Skyhawks the team’s first state title in twenty-eight years; and

Whereas, in a sport that requires strength, speed, and stamina, Head Coach Adrian Pinasco and his skilled coaching staff maximized their own experience and passion to produce a championship-caliber team and teach these athletes lessons that will prove invaluable through life both on and off the pitch; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives appreciate the pride and recognition that the Hammond soccer players have brought to their school and their community and look to hear of their continued accomplishments 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 Hammond School boys varsity soccer team, coaches, and school officials for an outstanding season and congratulate them for winning the 2018 South Carolina Independent School Association Class 3A State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Head of Upper School Joseph Lumpkin and Coach Adrian Pinasco.

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