**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE CARDINAL NEWMAN VARSITY BASEBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS ON AN EXTRAORDINARY SEASON AND FOR CAPTURING 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 Cardinal Newman baseball team of Richland County took top honors at the state series held at Ben Lippen School in Columbia on Tuesday, May 15, 2018; and

Whereas, to the sheer delight of their exuberant fans, the Cardinals capped their best season in two decades with a dominating 8-2 victory over a fine Ben Lippen team to sweep the South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA) Class 3A championship 2-0, and claim the program’s first state title since 1998; and

Whereas, Cardinal Newman’s sophomore pitcher Myles Hedgecock pitched a complete game with only four hits, five strikeouts, and two walks, and he retired eleven consecutive batters at one point in the game; and

Whereas, the Cardinals posted three runs from five singles in the first inning that led to runs batted in by AJ DePalma, Simon Penso, and Jake Rehling before they took the field; and

Whereas, Cardinal Newman’s Tanner Garrison delivered a RBI single in the second inning and Jake Rehling added a run on an error in the fifth inning. The Cardinals added three more runs in the sixth inning for an 8‑0 lead when Gage Jeffcoat, Simon Penso, and Jake Tanner drove in three runs; and

Whereas, Cardinal Newman recorded 15 singles with Jake Rehling and Quinn O’Connor leading the team’s offense with three hits each. Eight of Cardinal Newman’s nine batters recorded a hit, and all nine reached base at least once in the final game of the championship series; and

Whereas, the 2018 season had a rocky beginning with the Cardinals compiling a 6-5 record before winning 18 of their last 20 games, to finish 24-7; and

Whereas, in a sport that exacts strength, strategy, and quickness, first‑year Head Coach Charles Assey and his skilled coaching staff maximized their own experience and passion to forge a championship‑caliber team and teach these athletes 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 respect and appreciation that the Cardinal Newman baseball players have brought to their school and their community and look to hear of their continued achievements in the days to come. 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 Cardinal Newman varsity baseball team, coaches, and school officials on an extraordinary season and for capturing 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 Principal Jacqualine Kasprowski and Coach Charles Assey.

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