**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2021 AS “JA MORANT DAY” IN SOUTH CAROLINA IN HONOR OF THIS OUTSTANDING ATHLETE AND TO CONGRATULATE HIM FOR BEING NAMED THE 2020 NBA ROOKIE OF THE YEAR.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly are delighted to recognize Temetrius Jamel “Ja” Morant of Sumter for being named the 2020 National Basketball Association Rookie of the Year; and

Whereas, Ja Morant was the lottery pick of the Memphis Grizzlies, who selected him second overall in the 2019 NBA Draft. During his rookie season, he led the Grizzlies, a team that many preseason projections described as a rebuilding lottery team expected to finish among the bottom of the League in 2019-2020, to the brink of the NBA Playoffs; and

Whereas, during his rookie season, Number 12 dazzled the NBA and the world with his athleticism, skill, court vision, and electrifying playmaking ability. His statistics speak volumes about his impact on the game; he led all rookies in scoring with 17.8 points per game and in assists with 7.3 per game, while shooting 47.7% from the field. Morant finished the 2019-2020 campaign as only the third rookie in NBA history to score at least 17 points a game and to hand out seven or more assists while shooting at least 47% from the field; and

Whereas, even as a rookie, Morant established himself as one of the elite guards in the NBA; and

Whereas, a deserving winner, Morant ran away with the Eddie Gottlieb Trophy, garnering 99 first‑place votes from a global panel of 100 sportswriters and broadcasters and earning 498 total points for the Rookie of the Year Award; and

Whereas, Morant has taken great joy in celebrating the award and all of his achievements and success with his family and especially his young daughter; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly appreciate the pride and recognition that Temetrius Jamel “Ja” Morant has brought to his hometown of Dalzell, to Sumter County, and to the State of South Carolina. The General Assembly looks forward to a future filled with further accomplishments by this talented young man in his professional career and beyond. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, recognize Tuesday, August 10, 2021 as “Ja Morant Day” in South Carolina in honor of this outstanding athlete and congratulate him for being named the 2020 NBA Rookie of the Year.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Temetrius Jamel “Ja” Morant.

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