**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE LATTA HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC CHALLENGE TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR AN OUTSTANDING SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2018 SOUTH CAROLINA DIVISION II STATE CHAMPIONSHIP OF ACADEMICS.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the members of the Latta High School Academic challenge team of Dillon County took top honors at the state competition held at Francis Marion University on Thursday, March 22, 2018; and

Whereas, Elaine Smith, the team coach and science teacher, led the Academic Challenge team at Latta High to defeat a competitive Laurens High School and claim the trophy; and

Whereas, the Latta team members included Fitzhugh Bethea, Brianna Carter, Hailee Diaz, Emir Elhuni, Sam George, Gracen Grainger, Christian Kate Hayes, Madelon Hucks, Preston Johnson, Ryan Johnson, Lea Foster Khalil, Matthew Mason, Jacob Nolan, Everard Seay, and Briana Williams; and

Whereas, senior team captains included Brianna Carter, Sam George, Preston Johnson, and Briana Williams. Team standout junior Fitzhugh Bethea earned the most toss‑up points during the regular season, the regional tournament, and the state tournament; and

Whereas, to make the Latta team’s victory all the sweeter, the members of the Latta Middle School Academic Challenge Team were named first runners‑up in 2018 competition, promising a bright future for the team in the days to come; and

Whereas, in competition that demands hours of practice and mental agility, Head Coach Elaine Smith capitalized on the outstanding support of parents and students who attended the matches, as well as faculty and staff who assisted in the team’s preparations; and

Whereas, Coach Smith forged a championship team with teachers serving as judges for home and region matches and staff members serving as scorekeeper and timekeeper; and

Whereas, the team members learned lessons that will prove invaluable through life, not only lessons of hard work and commitment, but also lessons of serving their communities and helping others to succeed; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives appreciate the pride and recognition that the Latta High School Academic Challenge Team winners 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 Latta High School Academic Challenge Team, coaches, and school officials for an outstanding season and congratulate them for winning the 2018 South Carolina Academic Challenge Team Division II State Championship of Academics.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Leigh Sloan and Coach Elaine Smith.

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