**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE GREENWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR A REMARKABLE SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2018 SOUTH CAROLINA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ASSOCIATION CLASS 2A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the members of the Greenwood Christian cross country team of Greenwood County took top honors at the state meet held at Heathwood Hall Episcopal School in Columbia on Saturday, October 27, 2018; and

Whereas, delighting in the trophy held high in victory, exuberant fans cheered the Greenwood Christian Hawks who with 46 points defeated a competitive Spartanburg Christian with 53 points; and

Whereas, the Hawks placed three runners in the top ten: Garrett Sponenberg, who had captured the region trophy, was the top finisher on Greenwood’s team with a third‑place finish, while teammates Matthew Hanna and Andrew Osburne finished fourth and seventh, respectively; and

Whereas, the entire Hawks’ team will return next season, offering the hope that the runners will deliver another outstanding season; and

Whereas, the victory was bittersweet, however, for the team, especially for two members, Joe Black III, who finished in eleventh place for Greenwood Christian, and his brother and teammate, Sam Black, because of the sudden and tragic death of their forty‑eight‑year‑old father, retired Marine Corps Major Joe D. Black, Jr., on October 10; and

Whereas, to give him strength for whatever lies before him, Sam Black ran the race with the Bible verse Romans 8:31 written in red ink on his left calf, which reads, “What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?”; and

Whereas, the young runners, whose father had come to all their meets and who would have been the first one out of the stands to congratulate them, were able to refocus on running with the strong support of their Christian coaches and teammates; and

Whereas, in a sport that demands endurance, strength, and speed, Head Coach Kevin Sponenberg and his skilled coaching staff maximized their own athletic ability and training to produce a championship‑caliber team and teach these athletes lessons that will prove invaluable through life both on and off the course; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives appreciates the pride and recognition that the Greenwood Christian cross country runners have brought, even through adversity, to their school and their community, and the members 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 Greenwood Christian School boys cross country team, coaches, and school officials for a remarkable season and congratulate them for winning the 2018 South Carolina Independent School Association Class 2A State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Head of School Dr. Chris Johns and Coach Kevin Sponenberg.

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