**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE BEN LIPPEN SCHOOL BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR A STELLAR 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 Ben Lippen boys cross country team of Richland County took top honors at the state meet held at Heathwood Hall Episcopal School in Columbia on Saturday, October 27, 2018; and

Whereas, to the cheers of their exuberant fans, the Ben Lippen Falcons defeated their nearest opponent by a substantial 21 points in a fine, competitive field of runners from eleven schools to take their second state title in as many years; and

Whereas, in a team with no selfish individuals, the Falcons posted six runners in the top eleven, and their top five runners had the tightest spread of any team in the meet; and

Whereas, Camden Abrams and Samari Van Horn escorted the Ben Lippen team to victory, both running 17:09 in forth and fifth place, respectively, and both setting personal records; and

Whereas, Falcon sophomore John Davis outstripped a runner right at the finish to place seventh with a time of 17:29 while senior and team co‑captain Henry Long finished at 17:34 in ninth place; and

Whereas, urged on by his teammates, junior Jacob Sark placed tenth with a personal best of 17:51, and Ben Lippen senior and co‑captain Mason Harmon and Jackson McCrudden, who finished in eleventh place, both fought tight races to help to put the Falcons over the finish line for the title; and

Whereas, the Falcons will return five of their top seven runners and are preparing to bring back a stronger and faster squad for their next season; and

Whereas, in a sport that requires endurance, strength, and speed, Head Coach Thomas Fisher has emphasized for his runners to believe in themselves, to love their teammates, and to be grateful for the gift of running that God has given them; and

Whereas, Coach Fisher and his skilled coaching staff capitalized on their own athletic ability and passion in order to forge a championship team and teach these athletes lessons that will prove invaluable through life both on and off the courses; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives value the esteem and respect that the Ben Lippen runners have brought to their school and their community and look to hear of their continued achievements 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 Ben Lippen School boys cross country team, coaches, and school officials for a stellar 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 Principal Max Russell and Coach Thomas Fisher.

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