**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE LATTA DIXIE PONYTAIL SOFTBALL TEAM AND COACHES FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2018 TRADITIONAL DIVISION WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the members of the Latta Dixie Ponytail softball team of Dillon County took home the trophy from the 2018 World Series Championship in the Traditional Division held in Alexandria, Louisiana, from July 28 to August 1, 2018; and

Whereas, to the cheers of their exuberant fans, the Latta Dixie Ponytails defeated a fine, competitive field of comers to emerge as winners of the District 1 Championship and the South Carolina State Championship in the Traditional Division on the road to the World Series for ages twelve and under (12U); and

Whereas, during tournament play, the Latta Dixie Ponytails had 15 wins and no losses while scoring a combined 168 runs and only giving up 18, and the pitching staff recorded 6 shutouts, 3 no‑hitters, and 2 perfect games during the championship run; and

Whereas, during the District 1 Championship in Latta from June 16 to June 20, teams from Conway, Latta, Loris, Marion, Mullins, Myrtle Beach, North Myrtle Beach, and Surfside Beach vied for the trophy, and in the final game, Latta prevailed with a 14‑0 score over Loris in a no hitter; and

Whereas, the only undefeated team going into the state competition, the Ponytails traveled to Seneca to compete for the Dixie Softball State Title from July 7 to July 11 against teams from Abbeville, Chester, Hanahan, Marlboro County, Prosperity, Starr Iva, and Westminster. In the final game Latta defeated Prosperity with a score of 4‑2 to become Team South Carolina; and

Whereas, later that month, the Latta Ponytails represented the Palmetto State in competition for the World Series against teams from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Texas, and Ward 10, the host team from Louisiana. On August 1, Team South Carolina defeated North Carolina to claim the title of Dixie Traditional Ponytails World Series Champions with a perfect 15‑0 record in tournament play; and

Whereas, the World Series champions included Maddie Berry, Katlyn Carter, Madison Clark, Madison Griffey, Jayla Jenkins, Katelyn Johnson, Madison Kersey, Hendley McIntyre, Riley Owens, Katelynn Roberts, Emily Smith, and Jena Stutler; and

Whereas, capitalizing on their own athletic ability and training, Coaches Davy Johnson, Kyle Berry, and Chris Kersey molded a championship‑caliber team, teaching these athletes lessons that will prove invaluable through life both on and off the diamond; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives values the pride and recognition that the Latta softball players have brought to their hometown, and the members look to hear of the Ponytails’ 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 Latta Dixie Ponytail softball team and coaches for an extraordinary season and congratulate them for winning the 2018 Traditional Division World Series Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Coach Davy Johnson.

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