**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE SOUTH AIKEN HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY SEASON AND FOR WINNING THE 2019 SOUTH CAROLINA CLASS AAAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the members of the South Aiken High School girls varsity soccer team took top honors at the state competition held at Irmo High School on Friday, May 10, 2019; and

Whereas, to the cheers of their exuberant fans, the top‑ranked South Aiken High Lady Thoroughbreds defeated second‑ranked Eastside High School 4‑1 to win the team’s second state championship in only three years; and

Whereas, the state victory ended an undefeated season for South Aiken who only allowed their opponents a total of six goals all year long. The state match gave the Lady Thoroughbreds an opportunity to reclaim the title they had lost when the Eastside Lady Eagles had denied them the Upper State title in 2018 in penalty kicks, a loss that denied them a bid to the championship game as well; and

Whereas, the Lady Thoroughbreds started the championship game of 2019 with an aggressive opening, kicking three near misses in the first twelve minutes, and South Aiken remained relentless the entire game against Eastside; and

Whereas, Aiken’s Jordan Myers posted the first goal of the game before the first thirteen minutes of play with a strong shot to the net to make the score 1‑0. Within minutes, teammate Megan Musick placed a precise kick to Ally Bollig who fired another goal for a 2‑0 lead. Before the first half ended, Megan Musick sent a long‑range rocket right between the goalkeeper’s gloves to end the half with a 3‑0 lead; and

Whereas, the efficient, aggressive defense, led by South Aiken’s Hailey Roth on the back line, only allowed Eastside three shots on the goal the entire game and only one goal in the second half after almost an hour of play; and

Whereas, All‑State senior Gracie Beeson improved the score for South Aiken twelve minutes later with an assist from Lander College signee Haleigh Bollig, which brought the game’s final score to 4‑1; and

Whereas, in a sport that exacts precision, strength, and speed, Head Coach Dave Mihoulides and his skilled coaching staff capitalized on their own experience and passion to forge a championship‑caliber team and teach these athletes lessons that will prove invaluable through life both on and off the pitch; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives appreciate the pride and recognition that the South Aiken soccer players 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, congratulate the South Aiken High School girls varsity soccer team, coaches, and school officials for an extraordinary season and for winning the 2019 South Carolina Class AAAA State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Samuel Fuller and Coach Dave Mihoulides.

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