**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE NINETY SIX HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR A REMARKABLE SEASON AND FOR WINNING THE 2019 SOUTH CAROLINA CLASS AA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the members of the Ninety Six High School softball team of Greenwood County took top honors at the state competition held at the Pine Grove Sports Complex in West Columbia on Friday, May 17, 2019; and

Whereas, to the cheers of their exuberant fans, the Ninety Six Lady Cats defeated the Latta High School Lady Vikings 6‑5 in the third and final game to bring home the team’s first state title since 2001; and

Whereas, in the opener of the championship series, Ninety Six won a 5‑3 victory over Latta on the home field but fell 7‑0 to Latta on the Vikings’ diamond. The Lady Cats ground out the third game with dominant pitching and a defense that could not be intimidated; and

Whereas, after suffering a blistering loss in the second game, the Lady Cats regrouped and refocused and stepped up to the plate in game three. Sophomore Tori Barr hit a two‑run home run in the first inning to get Ninety Six going offensively. Junior pitcher Carlee Stockman was brilliant on the mound and freshman shortstop Gracie Lollis made a couple of diving catches that turned out to be critical for the Lady Cats; and

Whereas, in a sport that demands skill, strength, and strategy, Head Coach John Coster and his skilled coaching staff capitalized on their own experience and passion to hone a championship‑caliber team and teach these athletes lessons that will prove invaluable through life both on and off the diamond; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives value the pride and recognition that the Ninety Six High School softball players have brought to their school and their community and look to hear of their continued achievements in the days to come. 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 Ninety Six High School softball team, coaches, and school officials for a remarkable season and for winning the 2019 South Carolina Class AA State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Darin Rice and Coach John Coster.

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