**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR THE KERSHAW COUNTY PONYTAILS SOFTBALL TEAM AND COACHES ON THEIR IMPRESSIVE WIN OF THE 2019 SOUTH CAROLINA DIXIE SOFTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

Whereas, on Wednesday, July 17, 2019, the Kershaw County (KC) Ponytails softball team showed the difference that dedication, determination, and sacrifice can make as the Ponytails clinched the championship title; and

Whereas, while fans watched with excitement, the Kershaw County players battled through a tough final game, defeating Sumter and demonstrating that winning requires both mental and physical perseverance from the first pitch to the last. Tied 8-8 going into the final inning, the KC Ponytails managed to score the winning run by hitting a line drive in the final inning with two outs; and

Whereas, with only four returning players from last year’s squad, which took third in the State, the team was selected and began a rigorous practice schedule on May 28. In preparation for the state tournament, the team played multiple scrimmages and participated in five games. Players, knowing the sacrifice and determination necessary to succeed, also took it upon themselves to seek out individual private lessons to improve on vital skills like pitching and hitting; and

Whereas, the Ponytails took the most difficult possible path through the tournament. They were twice required to defeat Sumter, which took second place, as well as Union, which finished third; Lancaster, which finished fourth; and Georgetown, which finished fifth; and

Whereas, rightly proud of his team, Coach Lee Stokes has instilled in his players a standard of excellence and a drive to perform the necessary hard work that will serve them well for years to come, both on the field and off; and

Whereas, appreciative of the well‑deserved recognition these athletes have brought to their team and community, the House of Representatives congratulates the Kershaw County Ponytails softball team, and the members look with interest toward hearing of their future athletic endeavors as softball champions. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, honor the Kershaw County Ponytails softball team and coaches on their impressive win of the 2019 South Carolina Dixie Softball State Championship.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Coach Lee Stokes and the Kershaw County Ponytails softball team.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑