**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE NORTH AUGUSTA HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR A STELLAR SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR CAPTURING THE 2020 SOUTH CAROLINA CLASS AAAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the members of the North Augusta basketball team of Aiken County took home the state title from the state tournament held at the Colonial Life Arena in Columbia on Saturday, March 7, 2020; and

Whereas, not satisfied with a triple crown, the North Augusta Lady Yellow Jackets took on highly competitive South Pointe High School for the second straight final game, defeating South Pointe 70‑57 and claiming a fourth consecutive championship title; and

Whereas, through a truly incredible 28‑2 season, the Lady Yellow Jackets averaged about 71 points and 15.4 steals per game. South Pointe’s Lady Stallions allowed North Augusta its 70‑point quota but held the steals down to 10 in the explosive game; and

Whereas, by the end of the first quarter, North Augusta had posted a comfortable 13‑6 lead and built on that advantage in the second, eventually going ahead by 16 points until South Pointe scored nine straight points and closed the lead to seven before the Lady Yellow Jackets came back with a 35‑25 lead to take to the lockers for the half; and

Whereas, the second‑ranked North Augusta girls’ basketball team suddenly found its hopes of a fourth straight Class AAAA state championship in jeopardy when the Lady Stallions posted a brief 2‑point lead in the third quarter, and the teams headed into the final period tied at 45; and

Whereas, under pressure in the fourth quarter to maintain the state title streak, the Lady Yellow Jackets took over and secured the game with a 70‑57 victory. They emerged as only the seventh program in state history to reach the milestone of four consecutive state championships; and

Whereas, in one of the great runs in state history, the Lady Yellow Jackets met the responsibility and challenge of the pressure with grit in the pivotal moments of the game, and the seniors who played all four years finished their high school careers with a 109‑5 record, a 19‑wins playoff streak, and four state championship rings; and

Whereas, Senior guard Tyliah Burns, the Region 5‑AAAA Player of the Year and a North‑South All‑Star selection, scored a game‑high 34 points, posting all five of North Augusta’s 3‑pointers. J’Mani Ingram, an All‑State selection, scored 14 points. Junior Kiana Lee, a dominant player in each of the last two state title wins, had a double‑double night with 12 points and 13 rebounds. Sophomore point guard Aiyana Hightower had four points; classmate forward Arin Moore posted three points, four rebounds, and six blocks; and P’eris Smith had three points; and

Whereas, in a sport that exacts speed, accuracy, and precision, Head Coach Al Young and his skilled coaching staff utilized their athletic ability and training to hone a championship team and teach these athletes valuable lessons that will stand them in good stead throughout life; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives values the respect and admiration that the North Augusta basketball players have brought to their school and their community, and the members look for their continued success 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 North Augusta High School girls varsity basketball team, coaches, and school officials for a stellar season and congratulate them for capturing the 2020 South Carolina Class AAAA State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal John Murphy and Coach Al Young.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑