**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE CARDINAL NEWMAN SCHOOL WOMEN’S VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2020 SOUTH CAROLINA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ASSOCIATION CLASS 3A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the members of the Cardinal Newman basketball team of Richland County took top honors at the state tournament held at the Sumter County Civic Center on Saturday, February 29, 2020; and

Whereas, to the cheers of their exuberant fans, the Cardinal Newman Lady Cardinals defeated a fine, competitive Northwood Academy by erasing a double‑digit deficit in the first quarter and posting a final score of 60‑53 to retain the team’s state trophy; and

Whereas, the Northwood Lady Chargers kept a first quarter lead over Cardinal Newman, but the Lady Cardinals were able to reduce the margin to a 15‑13 deficit by the end of the period; and

Whereas, after a 7‑0 run in the second quarter, the Lady Cardinals managed to trim the lead again, but Northwood was still ahead 29‑25 when the teams took to the lockers for halftime; and

Whereas, when Cardinal Newman’s six‑foot‑three forward, sophomore Ashlyn Watkins, got in trouble in the first half with four fouls, she watched her team struggle back from being down and did not re‑enter the game until the fourth quarter; and

Whereas, the Lady Chargers hung on to their lead through the end of the third quarter with only a 43‑42 advantage, but after Cardinal Newman posted 14 unanswered points before the end of the third quarter and into the beginning of the fourth quarter, the Lady Cardinals edged up to overtake Northwood with a 49‑43 lead; and

Whereas, the teams parried points during the last period, but Tanaja Kennedy and Audrey Myers energized the Cardinal momentum with the help of their teammates to take the back‑to‑back state championship with a 60‑53 victory; and

Whereas, to enhance their second‑in‑a‑row trophy, the Cardinal Newman men’s team garnered its second consecutive trophy the same day; and

Whereas, Tanaja Kennedy led the team with 20 points, including a 3‑pointer, six‑of‑eight free‑throws, and five baskets from inside the 3‑point line. Teammate Audrey Myers posted 13 points and 10 rebounds, Ashlyn Watkins added 11, Sarah Dayhuff 8, Jasmine Hogan 4, Megan Holbrook 3, and Megan Slattery 1; and

Whereas, in a sport exacting speed, agility, and precision, Head Coach Molly Moore, who played for the Cardinals as a student, and her skilled coaching staff, used their own athletic ability and training to hone this 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 Cardinal Newman’s 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 Cardinal Newman School women’s varsity basketball team, coaches, and school officials for an extraordinary season and congratulate them for winning the 2020 South Carolina Independent School Association Class 3A State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Rob Loia and Coach Molly Moore.

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