**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CELEBRATE THE LANDER UNIVERSITY WOMEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS ON AN OUTSTANDING SEASON AND TO APPLAUD THEM FOR WINNING THE 2020 PEACH BELT CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIP.

Whereas, on March 8, 2020, the top‑seeded Lander University women’s basketball team crowned an outstanding season by capturing the 2020 Peach Belt Conference (PBC) Tournament Championship title, taking down the North Georgia Lady Nighthawks 76‑62 at Lander’s Horne Arena; and

Whereas, using a dominant 40‑7 run in the first half, Lander gained early separation and deprived No. 2 North Georgia of the coveted top prize. In nailing the title, the Lady Bearcats won their fifth overall tournament championship, having also claimed titles in 1999, 2008, 2009, and 2016; and

Whereas, Lander senior forward Tabitha Dailey led all scorers with 26 points and was named the tournament’s Most Valuable Player after the win. Senior guard Jessica Harris followed with 22 points and was tapped for the 2020 PBC Women’s Basketball All‑Tournament Team. Freshman guard Zamiya Passmore had 14. Dailey, Harris, and Passmore have been the key pieces in the Lady Bearcats’ offense this season. They combined for 62 of the team’s 76 points against North Georgia at the championship game; and

Whereas, rightly proud of his team, Head Coach Kevin Pederson also gained added fame with the title win. He was named the Women’s Basketball Coaching Association Southeast Regional Coach of the Year, and it was his second win of this high award in his fifteen‑year career at Lander. Coach Pederson guided the Lady Bearcats to their highest winning percentage in nine years as they posted a 26‑5 record, won the Peach Belt Conference regular season and tournament championships, and earned the No. 1 seed in the NCAA Southeast Regional. Further, as the No. 1 ranked team in the region, Lander earned the right to host the NCAA Division II Southeast Regional at Horne Arena, although unfortunately the present coronavirus pandemic has forced authorities to cancel that competition for this year; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives appreciate the pride and recognition that the Lander University women’s basketball team has brought to its school and community and look forward to hearing of further achievements by the team and its talented athletes. Go, Lady Bearcats! Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, celebrate the Lander University women’s basketball team, coaches, and school officials on an outstanding season and applaud them for winning the 2020 Peach Belt Conference Tournament Championship.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Richard E. Cosentino, president, and Head Coach Kevin Pederson of Lander University.

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