**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE DARIUS LEONARD FOR HIS ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER AS A LINEBACKER WITH THE INDIANAPOLIS COLTS.

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate is proud to recognize Darius Leonard for his outstanding career in football; and

Whereas, a native of Lake View, Darius Leonard graduated Magna Cum Laude with honors, with a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education, from South Carolina State University in 2018; and

Whereas, as a linebacker with South Carolina State, Darius started all forty-three games in four seasons and led the team in tackles in three seasons. He also set the all‑time school record of 394 tackles, 274 of which were solo, and tallied 53.0 tackles for loss, 21.5 sacks, six interceptions, eight forced fumbles, three fumble recoveries, and two blocked kicks; and

Whereas, as a college athlete, Darius received a number of honors and awards, including First Team All‑Mid‑Eastern Athletic Conference honors in three consecutive seasons, Mid‑Eastern Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Year in back‑to‑back seasons, Sheridan Broadcasting Network’s Mel Blount National Defensive Player of the Year in back‑to‑back seasons, and Box‑to‑Row National Defensive Player of the Year in back‑to‑back seasons; and

Whereas, in the 2018 National Football League Draft, Darius Leonard was selected by the Indianapolis Colts in the second round. He was picked thirty-sixth overall; and

Whereas, in his career with the Colts, Darius set a franchise record for the most tackles in a season, with 161, and was named 2019 NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate appreciate the pride and recognition that Darius Leonard has brought to the State of South Carolina and look forward to a future filled with further accomplishments by this talented athlete. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, honor and recognize Darius Leonard for his illustrious career as a linebacker with the Indianapolis Colts.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Darius Leonard.

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