**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE ABBEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR AN EXCEPTIONAL SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2020 SOUTH CAROLINA CLASS AA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly is pleased to learn that the members of the Abbeville High School football team took top honors at the state competition held at Benedict College’s Charlie W. Johnson Stadium on Friday, December 18, 2020; and

Whereas, in a year fraught with uncertainty and unique challenges for any athletic program, the Abbeville Panthers had their hopes for a state championship game postponed for two weeks from December 4 to December 18 due to positive COVID‑19 tests within the Marion High School football team; and

Whereas, to the absolute delight of their faithful fans, the Panthers rushed and pounded their way to defeat the Marion Swamp Foxes 37‑6 to capture Abbeville’s fifth state championship title in only six seasons; and

Whereas, in less than a three‑minute span, when Marion fumbled on back‑to‑back possessions, Abbeville used the turnovers to score two touchdowns for a 19‑0 before the end of the first quarter; and

Whereas, an 80‑yard kickoff return started the second half, and a 72‑yard fumble return added points to the board for the Panthers in the fourth quarter; and

Whereas, the Panthers allowed the Swamp Foxes only 44 yards of offense in the first half and outrushed them 299‑95 in the final game. During the entire season Abbeville allowed only 44 points to opponents in their ten games; and

Whereas, in a sport that demands strength, expertise, and determination, Head Coach Jamie Nickles, along with his skilled coaching staff, has maximized his own experience and passion to lead the Panthers to seven of the program’s eleven state titles. In the process, he has taught these athletes lessons that will prove invaluable through life both on and off the gridiron; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly value the pride and recognition that the Abbeville football players have brought to their school and their community and look to hear of their continued accomplishments in the days ahead. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, recognize and honor the Abbeville High School football team, coaches, and school officials for an exceptional season and congratulate them for winning the 2020 South Carolina Class AA State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Adam Lanford, principal, and Coach Jamie Nickles.

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