**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE NEWBERRY ACADEMY GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR A REMARKABLE SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2021 SOUTH CAROLINA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ASSOCIATION CLASS 1A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the members of the Newberry Academy girls basketball team captured the state title at the state competition held at Heathwood Hall in Columbia on Friday, February 26, 2021; and

Whereas, to the cheers of their exuberant fans, the Newberry Lady Eagles defeated a competitive and undefeated Patrick Henry Academy 59‑53 to take home the team’s first state championship trophy in the school’s history; and

Whereas, in its own undefeated season of 23‑0 entering the final game, the Eagles with only one senior managed an extraordinary record despite a couple of school shutdowns due to COVID, and the players hit the backboards and pressed their way to a state title; and

Whereas, the widest lead by either team during the championship game was seven points, amid fourteen lead changes and three ties. Early in the fourth quarter, Newberry took control of the lead when Eagles’ junior guard Daja Taylor broke a 46‑46 tie with a three‑pointer; and

Whereas, leading Newberry to a 59‑53 victory over Patrick Henry, Daja Taylor scored twenty of her game‑high thirty‑two points in the second half, and Kailey Cheeks added fifteen points to the Eagles’ tally; and

Whereas, teammate Caroline Senn posted five points, London Huggins added three, Madison Rivers contributed another three‑pointer for the Eagles in the fourth quarter, and Allison Joyner added one point; and

Whereas, in a sport that demands strength, agility, and precision, Head Coach Barry Kesler and his skilled coaching staff capitalized on their own athletic ability and training to hone a championship team and teach these athletes lessons that will prove invaluable through life both on and off the court; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives appreciate the pride and recognition that the Newberry basketball 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:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor the Newberry Academy girls varsity basketball team, coaches, and school officials for a remarkable season and congratulate them for winning the 2021 South Carolina Independent School Association Class 1A State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Head of School Nicole May and Coach Barry Kesler.

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