**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CELEBRATE THE MEMBERS OF THE BELTON‑HONEA PATH HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM ON A STELLAR SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THE TEAM MEMBERS AND COACHES ON WINNING THE 2021 CLASS AAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, with the goal of a well‑earned championship firmly in mind, the Belton‑Honea Path High School wrestling team pinned down the 2021 Class AAA State Championship title on Saturday, February 20, 2021, defeating Gilbert 54‑21; and

Whereas, Belton‑Honea Path High School (BHP) has a longstanding wrestling tradition. At the title match, the Bears returned to the top of the state wrestling landscape in claiming their first state championship since 2012 and their fifth overall; and

Whereas, the BHP grapplers displayed a total team effort from start to finish. The match began at 182 pounds with BHP’s Logan Lollis securing a pin to give the Bears an early 6‑0 lead. Gilbert then won the next three contests to take a 12‑6 lead. BHP’s Cooper Strickland, who wrestles at 106 pounds, tied the score at 12‑12 with a win by pin; and

Whereas, from there, BHP went on a roll. The Bears secured six consecutive pins following Strickland’s: Asher Roe (113), Will Hendricks (120), Joseph Morris (126), Tristan Babb (132), Eli Strickland (138), and Easton Brannan (145). Having built an insurmountable 48‑12 lead, BHP won the final match of the day via pin at 170 pounds by Tyler Center, giving the team nine pins overall; and

Whereas, Belton‑Honea Path’s Coach Chris Strickland led his athletes to the top of the mountain at the championship competition and found the view worth the climb. For Coach Strickland, a 1996 BHP graduate, bringing the trophy back home made this sweet victory the greatest honor; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to salute the young athletes of the Belton‑Honea Path High School wrestling team and have confidence that the Bears will continue to excel in the years ahead. 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 members of the Belton‑Honea Path High School wrestling team on a stellar season and congratulate the team members and coaches on winning the 2021 Class AAA State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Mary Boarts and Coach Chris Strickland of Belton‑Honea Path High School.

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