**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE RIVER BLUFF HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM FOR CAPTURING THE 2021 CLASS AAAAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE AND TO HONOR THE TEAM’S EXCEPTIONAL PLAYERS, COACHES, AND STAFF.

Whereas, fully resolved to take home the gold, the River Bluff High School boys basketball team crowned an outstanding season by netting the 2021 Class AAAAA State Championship title, defeating powerhouse Dorman 57‑45 and ending the Cavaliers’ four‑title run on Saturday, March 6, 2021, at USC Aiken Convocation Center; and

Whereas, it was the first state boys basketball championship for the Gators. River Bluff had owned just two playoff wins in school history but won four this year, capped off by the state title. The victory also was Head Coach Ben Lee’s 100th win at River Bluff; and

Whereas, the Gators, behind forward Myles Jenkins, chomped down on the Cavaliers in the first quarter. He dropped eight of the first 11 points for River Bluff, as they opened up on a 13‑4 run to start the title game. Gator forward Preston Hearn ignited the crowd with a triple from beyond the arc, and right before the buzzer rang to close out the frame, Malachi Reeves added another three‑pointer to make it 21‑12 River Bluff; and

Whereas, dominant Dorman entered the second quarter in the trail position to a hungry, sharp‑shooting Gator team. The Cavaliers flipped the script to begin the second. Dorman utilized great transition offense, mixed with good passing, to sprint to an 8‑0 run and shrink River Bluff’s lead to a mere point. River Bluff refused to flinch behind the fantastic first‑half play from Jenkins. The senior star scored 19 points in the first 16 minutes, as the Gators checked into the locker room with a 30‑27 lead; and

Whereas, the Gators’ offense cooled off to begin the second half. It allowed Dorman to move in front early in the third quarter, 31‑30, its first lead of the game since being up 2‑0. The Cavaliers were able to keep the Gators’ potent attack quiet to lead by three entering the final frame. Late fourth quarter, trailing by two, Hearn camped out at the top of the key and knocked down a huge three‑point field goal. Hearn’s bucket gave the Gators a 46‑45 lead. Dorman called a timeout, perhaps to still the Gator supporters roaring from the stands. Jenkins, under the radar all year long, rose to the occasion with another pivotal basket late in the fourth to give the Gators a 48‑45 advantage with around 1:30 to play in the game; and

Whereas, River Bluff’s defense held tight to deny Dorman opportunities to find the equalizer. The Gators made smart decisions, played strong with the basketball, and delivered critical free throws to put the game on ice; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives takes great pleasure in recognizing the young men of the River Bluff High School boys basketball team for leading with excellence, both in the classroom and on the court, and expects to hear of continued great achievements 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, congratulate the River Bluff High School boys basketball team for capturing the 2021 Class AAAAA State Championship title and honor the team’s exceptional players, coaches, and staff.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Luke Clamp, principal, and Head Coach Ben Lee of River Bluff High School.

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