**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE CLOVER HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR A STELLAR SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2021 SOUTH CAROLINA CLASS AAAAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the members of the Clover High girls’ basketball team of York County took top honors at the state competition held at the University of South Carolina Aiken Convocation Center on Saturday, March 20, 2021; and

Whereas, in a thrilling finish, the Clover High Lady Blue Eagles wrested the program’s first state championship victory from the claws of the competitive Sumter High School Lady Gamecocks with a 40‑38 victory; and

Whereas, even though Clover trailed the Lady Gamecocks for more than twenty‑eight minutes of the game, the Lady Blue Eagles kept up the press, and the electric fans were treated to a nail‑biting show that more than satisfied the price of admission; and

Whereas, Clover took the team’s first lead of the game with just over two minutes left of play, and senior Aylesha Wade sealed the deal by making a transition bucket with some ten seconds left in the game to break the 38‑38 tie; and

Whereas, boasting an impressive 18‑1 record for the 2020‑2021 school year and 8‑0 in the region, the Lady Blue Eagles played with determination the entire season to make amends for their loss at the 2020 state championship game; and

Whereas, Clover’s forward Janelle Carter led her team in scoring with thirteen points, and added eight rebounds, two assists, and three steals. Aylesha Wade posted twelve points, three rebounds, and two assists. A signee for the University of North Carolina Charlotte, she is Clover’s all‑time leading scorer with a 2,000‑point career. La’Destiny Worthy scored eleven points and added nine rebounds, and Taylor Thomas led the team in rebounds with ten and provided two points while Lauren Deal added another two points. All five of these players were senior starters and were named to the All‑Region team. Janelle Carter and Aylesha Wade were named to the All‑State team; and

Whereas, the 2021 championship game marked the fifth all‑time appearance of the Clover basketball team at a state championship since 1935, and this was the first time the team carried home the much‑anticipated trophy; and

Whereas, in a sport that demands strength, agility, and accuracy, Clover High alumna and Coach of the Year, longtime Head Coach Sherer Hopkins, and her skilled coaching staff capitalized on their own athletic ability and training to forge a championship‑caliber team and teach these athletes lessons that will prove invaluable through life both on and off courts; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives values the pride and recognition that the Clover basketball players have brought to their school and their community, and the members 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 Clover High School girls varsity basketball team, coaches, and school officials for a stellar season and congratulate them for winning the 2021 South Carolina Class AAAAA State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Rod Ruth and Coach Sherer Hopkins.

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