**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR THE CLEMSON UNIVERSITY MEN’S SOCCER TEAM ON CAPTURING THE 2020 ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE (ACC) REGULAR‑SEASON CHAMPIONSHIP AND TO COMMEND THESE ATHLETES ON A SPECTACULAR SEASON.

Whereas, the Clemson University men’s soccer team defeated the number one‑ranked University of Pittsburgh Panthers 2‑0, to claim the ACC Championship title, and an automatic bid into the NCAA National Tournament; and

Whereas, having won the ACC Atlantic Division, Clemson hosted Pittsburgh, the winner of the Coastal Division, in a match held at Historic Riggs Field on April 17, 2021. Having already defeated then top‑ranked Pittsburgh in November of 2020, due to the extended ACC soccer season, the game was set to be a strength of wills as the Panthers looked to avenge their mid‑season match up; and

Whereas, the clash was an intensely physical contest, in which there were more than twenty recorded fouls and four yellow cards shown. Despite a fierce defensive effort by Pittsburgh, the Tigers found their way onto the scoreboard with an opportunistic goal by junior midfielder Quinn McNeill in the seventeenth minute and sealed their victory with a second goal by sophomore forward Isaiah Reid in the eighty‑third minute after being perfectly set up by an assist from sophomore Mohamed Saye; and

Whereas, since his arrival in 2010, Coach Mike Noonan has done a phenomenal job elevating the program to new heights, convincing his athletes to buy into a pursuit of excellence upon the field; and

Whereas, having claimed the ACC Championship, Clemson received an automatic bid, sending them to the NCAA National Tournament for the thirty‑third time in program history, and the seventh time in the last eight seasons. Additionally, for the first time since 1998, the Tigers enter the tournament having earned the number one seed, and look to assert themselves after a difficult loss the previous season to Stanford 5‑4, by way of penalty kicks; and

Whereas, this season the entirety of the 2020 Men’s and Women’s NCAA Tournaments will take place in North Carolina. WakeMed Soccer Park in Cary, NC will play host to all College Cup matches, and will serve as a fitting battleground for programs in search of college soccer’s highest honor, a national championship; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives value the pride and recognition that winning the ACC Championship brings to Clemson University and wish the Tiger’s the best of luck throughout the NCAA National Tournament. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, honor the Clemson University men’s soccer team on capturing the 2020 Atlantic Coast Conference Regular‑Season Championship and commend these athletes on a spectacular season.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to President James P. Clements and Head Coach Mike Noonan.

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