**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE LYNN HICKS, SOFTBALL COACH AT WREN HIGH SCHOOL, UPON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT AFTER FORTY YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY COACHING, AND TO WISH HER CONTINUED SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN ALL HER FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly has learned that Lynn Hicks began a well‑deserved retirement at the end of the 2020‑2021 school year after forty years as a premier coach, the last thirty‑eight of which have been as a legendary and highly‑regarded basketball and softball coach at Wren High School; and

Whereas, in 1968, Lynn Hicks’ family moved to Wren when she was in the fourth grade. Amazed with the cows and pastures and at the small size of the community, she grew to love it and watched it become the fully developed community it is today; and

Whereas, she began her athletic career at Wren in middle school, playing six‑person basketball. In high school, she continued playing basketball, which had transitioned to the traditional five‑on‑five game, and played slow‑pitch softball, the norm of the 1970s. After graduating from Wren High School in 1977, she attended Erskine College, where she played basketball and softball, and earned a bachelor’s degree in 1981, at which time her coaching career in the Upstate began, first at McDuffie High School; and

Whereas, when the possibility opened up to coach girls’ basketball at Wren, she knew that she would spend the rest of her career there if she were given the opportunity. In 1983, Coach Hicks was offered the job and became a legend on the court, giving the program longevity and the stability she had always hoped to provide as a coach, tallying 540 wins, 27 playoff appearances, and eleven region championships in 34 seasons; and

Whereas, two years later, in 1985, she was asked to coach the softball program. As a pitcher’s coach, she built Wren’s reputation on the mound. She has coached teamwork and built confidence into her athletes, making them tougher and more reliable players. Other schools have looked at Wren as a benchmark because Coach Hicks, instrumental in building up the sport from community youth association ball to the high school game, set the standard at a young age for a homegrown team. As a result, players grew up hoping to take the field for her in high school; and

Whereas, on Friday night, April 16, 2021, a large group of spectators packed the stands to watch Wren host Pendleton and to witness the renaming of the softball field after Coach Hicks, in honor of her accomplishments and dedication, on the eve of her retirement as the program’s softball coach; and

Whereas, her accomplishments on the diamond over nearly four decades at Wren High include 704 career wins, 34 playoff appearances, fifteen regional championships, fourteen times as Region Coach of the Year, and the 2008 Class AAAA state championship; and

Whereas, one of Coach Hicks’ great joys in coaching has been seeing the successes her players have had at the college level and beyond, including in sports, and as moms, wives, and business and community leaders. In her retirement, she plans to remain active and a fixture in her beloved Wren community; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly takes great pleasure in extending best wishes to Lynn Hicks as she transitions to a richly deserved retirement and the leisurely pace of the days ahead, and the members are grateful for the years of unparalleled dedication that she has devoted to coaching and wish her many years of enjoyment in her well‑earned retirement. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, congratulate Lynn Hicks, softball coach at Wren High School, upon the occasion of her retirement after forty years of outstanding coaching, and wish her continued success and happiness in all her future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Coach Lynn Hicks.

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