**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE JAYLEN ROBERTS OF BEAUFORT COUNTY ON BEING AWARDED A USDA/1890 SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2021, TO RECOGNIZE HIM FOR HIS EXCEPTIONAL ACADEMIC AND ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS, AND TO WISH HIM THE VERY BEST AS HE PURSUES HIS STUDIES AT SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY.

Whereas, beginning when he was very young, Jaylen Roberts was impressed with the importance of education. His mom, an eighth‑grade science teacher at Whale Branch Middle School, would take him to work with her, and he would cross the campus to attend Whale Branch Elementary School. Schools feel like home to Jaylen, as he has spent so much of his time there, not only in his classes but also in visiting his mom in hers; and

Whereas, Travis and Angela Roberts, Jaylen’s parents, raised their son to view education as his number‑one priority, and his teachers and coaches also have underscored the importance of education. Jaylen is an avid athlete and loves competing in football, baseball, and track and field. With everyone in his life encouraging him, it is no wonder that he maintained above a 3.5 GPA during his high school years at Whale Branch Early College High. He also took advantage of the Early College Program at the high school and started taking college classes as a freshman in high school. His dad describes him as a self‑motivator, revealing that Jaylen never had to be pushed to study harder or do his homework; rather, as a hard worker he pushed himself to get things done; and

Whereas, Jaylen graduated from the Technical College of the Lowcountry on May 7, 2021, with two associate degrees and three certificates. On June 16, 2021, he graduated from Whale Branch Early College High School in the top ten of his class. That is impressive enough for someone his age, but that is just the beginning of the story; and

Whereas, in late 2020, Jaylen and his family were attending one of Jaylen’s basketball games. It was senior night, and it was announced that Jaylen was planning to attend college and major in mechanical engineering. A “messenger angel,” as Angela called him, pulled Travis aside and mentioned the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program and told him to look into it; and

Whereas, the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program provides full tuition and related expenses to the student for the remainder of his or her college degree program, leading to graduation and training opportunities during the summer. Upon graduation, a noncompetitive full‑time position is provided to the student for as many years as the student spent in college. The goal of the scholarship is to increase the number of minorities studying agriculture, food, natural resource sciences, and other related disciplines. Jaylen applied, and his steady self‑discipline paid off when he was awarded a USDA/1890 scholarship; and

Whereas, he was already committed to Savannah State to play football, so he decommitted and is now attending South Carolina State University. His schooling there will include summer internships in Wisconsin, which is sponsoring his scholarship, as he studies civil engineering; and

Whereas, the members of the House of Representatives are pleased to have the opportunity to salute such a capable student and fine young man as Jaylen Roberts, an outstanding son of South Carolina who has brought great pride to his entire community and State. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate Jaylen Roberts of Beaufort County on being awarded a USDA/1890 scholarship for 2021, recognize him for his exceptional academic and athletic achievements, and wish him the very best as he pursues his studies at South Carolina State University.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Jaylen Roberts.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑