**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA WOMEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS ON A TRULY EXTRAORDINARY SEASON AND TO HONOR THEM FOR WINNING THE 2022 NCAA WOMEN’S BASKETBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.

Whereas, on April 3, 2022, the University of South Carolina women’s basketball team completed an outstanding season by winning its second national championship in women’s basketball, defeating the University of Connecticut Huskies, 64‑49, at the Target Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota; and

Whereas, the Gamecocks jumped out to an early lead and never lost it, building up to an eighteen‑point advantage in the second quarter. Connecticut never came closer than a six‑point margin, and that only one time in the third quarter; and

Whereas, Aliyah Boston was named the Most Outstanding Player of the Final Four, averaging 17 points, 17 rebounds, 3.5 assists, and 1.5 blocks per game in Minneapolis. Destanni Henderson and Zia Cooke were also named to the Final Four All-Tournament Team, with Destanni Henderson scoring a game‑high 26 points against the Huskies, and Zia Cooke adding 11 points in the title game; and

Whereas, the national title victory also clinched a program‑record with 35 wins, breaking a tie with the 2014‑2015 team. Of those 35 wins, the Gamecocks finished the season with a perfect 14‑0 record against nationally‑ranked teams, another program single‑season record; and

Whereas, the Gamecocks trailed for only six minutes and fifteen seconds of two hundred forty minutes of NCAA Tournament play. The Gamecocks had double‑digit leads in all six NCAA Tournament games, leading in double figures for more than half of all minutes played in the tournament; and

Whereas, Gamecock players and coaches attribute the win to the players’ commitment to the team and their determination to realize their goals; and

Whereas, the Gamecocks have won six SEC regular season championships, as well as six SEC Tournament Championships; and

Whereas, as head of an excellent coaching staff, Coach Dawn Staley is in her fourteenth season with Carolina. For Coach Staley, member of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, the win marked her second NCAA women’s basketball championship. She is only the second African American coach to win the title and the first in men’s or women’s Division 1 to win more than one; and

Whereas, assistant coaches and support staff have also proven integral to the team’s success, including Lisa Boyer, Jolette Law, Fred Chmiel, Cynthia Jordan, Freddy Ready, Ariana Moore, Hudson Jacobs, Payten Martin, Molly Binetti, Craig Oates, Diana Koval, and Dianne Palmer; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives appreciates the pride and recognition that the University of South Carolina women’s basketball team has brought to their school and to the Palmetto State, and the members look forward to following the tremendous accomplishments by the team and its talented athletes in the days to come. 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 University of South Carolina women’s basketball team, coaches, and school officials on a truly extraordinary season and honor them for winning the 2022 NCAA Women’s Basketball National Championship.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the University of South Carolina women’s basketball team, Head Coach Dawn Staley, Athletic Director Ray Tanner, and Interim President Harris Pastides.

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