**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE BEN LIPPEN SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR A REMARKABLE SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2021‑2022 SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly is pleased to learn that the Ben Lippen wrestling team of Richland County captured the state trophy at the tournament held on Ben Lippen’s campus on Saturday, February 5, 2022; and

Whereas, to the cheers of their exuberant fans, the Ben Lippen Falcons defeated the top‑seeded Hammond Skyhawks to garner the team’s second consecutive state title 45‑32; and

Whereas, at 160, Stone Porter got a first period pin for Ben Lippen, and Hammond tied a match at 113 with a second period pin 6‑6. Reese Carson put the Falcons back on top with a second period pin at 120. Hammond answered with a second period pin at 126. Then Hammond took another match at 132 for a 16‑12 Skyhawk lead, followed by a first period pin for Hammond at 138. Falcon Tanner Carson cut the Skyhawk lead to 22‑15 with a 5‑2 win at 145, and teammate Zach MacDougald at 152 built a 10‑0 lead over his opponent before injury left the Skyhawk unable to continue; and

Whereas, with six matches remaining, Ben Lippen was only one point behind the Skyhawks, a slim 22‑21 lead, but four remaining Hammond wrestlers were ranked number one, one of them a heavy weight, and the Falcons had no true heavyweight to face him; and

Whereas, when Ben Lippen’s Harrison Jones at 160 scored an early takedown, his Hammond opponent was able to escape and get a takedown of his own early in the second period to mount a 3‑2 lead. Jones then got a reversal and pinned his opponent with less than a minute in the second to change the course of the entire match; and

Whereas, the Falcons’ Drake Porter followed with a second period pin at 170 to give his team a 33‑22 lead, but two more victories for Hammond reduced the Ben Lippen lead to 33‑32; and

Whereas, Ben Lippen junior Trey Talbert at 220 faced off against a Hammond eighth grader who scored an early takedown, but Talbert escaped, setting his opponent’s lead at 2‑1 going into the second period. Talbert got a takedown and then a pin with just over a minute left in the second to clinch Ben Lippen’s insurmountable 39‑32 lead over the Skyhawks. Hammond forfeited the last match to set the final score at 45‑32; and

Whereas, the Falcon team includes senior Price Medlin; juniors Burton Brewer, Andrew Brumgardt, Tanner Carson, Nathanael Cole, Cole Dudley, Preston Halter, Geoffrey Hunt, Zack McDougald, and Trey Talbert; sophomores Reese Carson, Jeffrey Muir, and Samuel Welsford; freshmen Frank Cahoon, Howie Desch, Jake Gaillard, Austin Huff, and Harrison Jones; middle schoolers Jonathan Berlin, JC Chakides, Tim Cole, Ben Cole, Landon Dagenhart, Justice Desch, Will Fitts, Brayden Marye, Drake Porter, Stone Porter, Kannon Sample, Caleb Scott, Sam Shuford, Hudson Traynum, Wyatt Turner, and Gabe VanAlstine; and fifth graders Caleb Craft, Noah Gilliam, and Sam Kip; and

Whereas, in a sport that demands strategy, strength, and individual excellence, Head Coach Bert Medlin and Assistant Coaches Chris Sample and Wes Hester maximized their athletic ability and training to forge a championship team and teach these athletes principals that will endure beyond the mats: whether they win or lose, the greatest thing is their heart and walking with God all of their lives; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly appreciates the pride and recognition that the Ben Lippen grapplers have brought to their school and their community, and the members look to hear of their continued achievements in the days ahead. 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, recognize and honor the Ben Lippen School wrestling team, coaches, and school officials for a remarkable season and congratulate them for winning the 2021‑2022 South Carolina Association of Independent Schools State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Tony Fajardo and Coach Bert Medlin.

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