**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE WESTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR A REMARKABLE SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2021 SOUTH CAROLINA CLASS AAAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate is pleased to learn that the members of Anderson County’s Westside High girls basketball team took top honors at the state competition held at the University of South Carolina Aiken on Thursday, March 4, 2021; and

Whereas, to the cheers of their exuberant fans, the Westside Lady Rams defeated the competitive Lower State champion North Myrtle Beach High School, 44‑30, to capture the program’s second‑ever state title, the first title in almost thirty years; and

Whereas, although North Myrtle Beach posted the first score on a free throw, it would be the only lead the Lady Chiefs had for the entire game, thanks to the solid Westside defense; and

Whereas, by the end of the first quarter, the Lady Rams had set their mark on the championship title with a 14‑1 lead. By the time the teams took to the lockers for halftime, Westside had kept a comfortable 20‑9 lead; and

Whereas, in the third quarter, the Lady Chiefs showed some intensity and narrowed Westside’s lead to 25‑19 at the close of the period. The fourth quarter opened with a Westside 6‑0 run, all from forced turnovers, and Sanquisha Little capped off the 14‑point victory with a final 3‑pointer; and

Whereas, Destiny Middleton led Westside with seventeen points, ten rebounds, three assists, and three steals. Teammate Aziyah Bell scored six points, Anayah Harper posted four points, and Shakari Gaines and Branya Pruitt each hit three. Freshman standouts Olivia Randolph and Ahrianna Scott were key players, each contributing four points, and Sanquisha Little added the final three points; and

Whereas, Aziyah Bell, Branya Pruitt, and Destiny Middleton were named to the All‑Region team from Westside, and Destiny Middleton was also named to the All‑State team. Teammate Chyna Dixon, the young team’s only senior, has signed to play volleyball for the University of West Alabama; and

Whereas, the 2021 championship marks the first state title for Westside Head Coach Jackie Roberts; the last win came under her late father‑in‑law, the legendary William Roberts whose team took the title in 1992. Coach Roberts played for him in the 1980s and later married his son, current Westside principal Kory Roberts; and

Whereas, in a sport that requires strength, agility, and accuracy, Coach Roberts and her skilled coaching staff maximized their own athletic ability and training to hone a championship‑caliber team and teach these athletes lessons that will prove invaluable through life both on and off the courts; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate value the pride and recognition that the Westside basketball players have brought to their school and their community and look to hear of their continued accomplishments in the days ahead. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and honor the Westside High School girls basketball team, coaches, and school officials for a remarkable season and congratulate them for winning the 2021 South Carolina Class AAAA State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Kory Roberts and Coach Jackie Roberts.

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