**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND D’ANDRE HICKS OF COLLETON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL UPON BEING ELECTED AS THE THIRTY‑FOURTH GOVERNOR OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAM.

Whereas, the YMCA Youth and Government is a national program of the Y that involves thousands of teens nationwide in state‑organized, model‑government programs. The program allows students from every corner of the country to have the opportunity to immerse themselves in experiential civic engagement. Forty‑eight states participate in the national program and South Carolina’s YMCA Youth in Government program is the fourth largest in the nation, with twenty‑five hundred middle and high school students participating each year; and

Whereas, recently D’Andre Hicks, a junior at Colleton County High School, was elected as the thirty‑fourth youth governor of the South Carolina YMCA Youth in Government program; and

Whereas, a dedicated and diligent individual, this past year D’Andre served as a presiding officer for the Youth in Government program, going so far as to preside over virtual debates while on the bus; and

Whereas, an active member of his school, D’Andre has served as the vice president and president of the Future Business Leaders of America; has served as president of his freshman and sophomore classes, with the intention to represent his class next year; is the number three player on the tennis team; serves as the school’s mascot; and as a musician, he is a soloist with the school honor chorus, and has starred in several musicals; and

Whereas, with a deep connection to his community outside of school, D’Andre volunteers with a local homeless shelter, is a part of a group that organizes regular litter pick‑up events, and has led several special events for the community. Last Christmas, he helped to organize a statewide Youth in Government project to provide Christmas gifts to children in Colleton and Charleston County, resulting in Christmas gifts being provided to thirty children. He also maintains an active involvement with his church and serves as the youth president for the congregation; and

Whereas, with great excitement for government; D’Andre’s campaign slogan for youth governor was “people over politics.” His goal was to always have people see each other as children of God first, and to advocate for listening to each other respectfully. Understanding that while disagreement is inevitable, he firmly believes that there is a common humanity that acts as a force to connect us all; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate value the pride and recognition that D’Andre Hicks brings to his school and to his community, as the first student from Colleton County elected as youth governor, and look forward to hearing of his 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 commend D’Andre Hicks of Colleton County High School upon being elected as the thirty‑fourth governor of the South Carolina YMCA Youth in Government program.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to D’Andre Hicks.

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