**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND THE DILLON HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR A WINNING SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR CAPTURING THE 2013 CLASS AA DIVISION I STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina is pleased to learn that the members of the Dillon High School varsity football team of Dillon County garnered the state trophy for the second consecutive year, the fourth time since 2008; and

Whereas, the Dillon Wildcats had a 12‑2 season, and the two losses this season included a 27‑21 loss to Mallard Creek in North Carolina, which ranked fourteenth in the nation in the latest *USA Today* Super 25, and to Marlboro County which made it to the Class AAA Lower State Final; and

Whereas, the Wildcats squared off against Fairfield‑Central High School on Friday, December 6, 2013, at Benedict College in Columbia for a rematch of the 2012 AA state competition; and

Whereas, the previously undefeated Fairfield‑Central Griffin offense proved no match for the Wildcat defense as the Griffins were allowed only ninety‑eight yards on the ground, more than a hundred yards less than their game average this season; and

Whereas, to the delight of their fans and the disappointment of their rivals, the Wildcats led 21‑3 at the half and posted two quick scores in the third quarter before ending the championship game with an astounding 41‑3 victory; and

Whereas, the final game was the two hundred fiftieth career victory for Head Coach Jackie Hayes in three hundred starts, making him the fastest coach to reach that milestone in state history; and

Whereas, four of the school’s five state championship titles have come under Coach Jackie Hayes: in 2008, 2009, 2012 and now 2013. The first Wildcat football title came in 1947 when Walhalla High School forfeited by failing to appear; and

Whereas, our colleague in the House of Representatives for District 55, Coach Hayes teamed up with an excellent coaching staff to mold another championship team and teach these young athletes meaningful life lessons; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the honor that the Dillon High School football players have brought to their school and their community and look to hear of their success in the future. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina, by this resolution, recognize and commend the Dillon High School varsity football team, coaches, and school officials for a winning season and congratulate them for capturing the 2013 Class AA Division I State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Shawn Johnson and Coach Jackie Hayes.

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