**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE SUMMERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY BASEBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR AN OUTSTANDING SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2016 SOUTH CAROLINA CLASS AAAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the members of the Summerville High baseball team of Dorchester County took top honors at the state competition held at Lexington High School on Friday, May 20, 2016; and

Whereas, to the cheers of exuberant fans, the Summerville Green Wave defeated the J. L. Mann Patriots 2‑1 to capture the state championship trophy in the third game of the best‑two‑out‑of‑three series; and

Whereas, earlier in the week, the Patriots took a win in the first game of the series at home, and Summerville responded by copying a win at home in the second game to force the third game at Lexington High School; and

Whereas, after the Green Wave victory in the second of the series, the third game became a battle of the pitchers, but Summerville’s right‑hander and University of South Carolina signee Sawyer Bridges served up a decisive win in the final game to take the championship; and

Whereas, although the Summerville pitcher allowed six hits, he struck out seven batters and battled his way through some difficult innings, ending his senior season with an 8‑1 record and a state championship; and

Whereas, in the top of the fourth inning, Green Wave catcher Rusty Grayson hit a solo home run for the first score of the game, and teammate second baseman Bo Gobin batted in leftfielder Brodie Blanton, giving Summerville a 2‑0 lead; and

Whereas, in the bottom of the fourth inning, the Patriots drove in a run and cut the lead to one precarious run for Summerville, but J. L. Mann had to leave three runners stranded in that inning, and no score was posted the rest of the game; and

Whereas, during the entire season, Summerville relied on the combination of its pitching staff and powerful defense, which landed the Green Wave a remarkable 27‑7 season and the team’s first state championship since 2003; and

Whereas, it was, however, a bittersweet victory for Summerville as the team played the series in memory of their teammate and valued friend, Tripp Rabon, number 19, who lost his life before the season began in a car accident; and

Whereas, in a sport that demands strength, strategy, and quickness, Head Coach Banks Faulkner and his skilled coaching staff maximized their own athletic experience and training to produce a championship‑caliber team and teach these athletes lessons that will prove invaluable through life both on and off the diamond; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives value the pride and recognition that the Summerville baseball players have brought to their school and their community and look to hear of their future success in the days ahead. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor the Summerville High School varsity baseball team, coaches, and school officials for an outstanding season and congratulate them for winning the 2016 South Carolina Class AAAA State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Kenny Farrell and Coach Banks Faulkner.

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