**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND COMMEND THE WILSON HALL VARSITY BASEBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR A WINNING SEASON AND TO APPLAUD THEM FOR GARNERING THE 2015 CLASS AAA SOUTH CAROLINA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ASSOCIATION STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are grateful to learn that the Wilson Hall varsity baseball team of Sumter County captured the state trophy in the South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA) contest held at Northwood Academy in North Charleston on Wednesday, May 13, 2015; and

Whereas, when the Wilson Hall Barons defeated Northwood Academy in a nail‑biting 6‑5 finish, they took their second consecutive SCISA state trophy in two games of the best‑of‑three contest, accumulating the team’s third state victory since 2011; and

Whereas, the Barons had lost seven starters from their 2014 team, which made a repeat of the team’s championship season seem unlikely, but through the vicissitudes of the season, the team bonded and fought to improve; and

Whereas, Wilson Hall scored four runs to open the top of the first inning in what would be the Barons last game of the season with successive hits by McLendon Sears, Robert James, Dawson Price, and Sam Watford and an RBI hit from John Ballard; and

Whereas, when the Northwood Chargers put two runs on the scoreboard in the bottom of the same inning, the Barons matched them with two runs in the third inning, giving them an early 6‑2 lead; and

Whereas, Northwood took advantage of Wilson Hall’s defense by scoring three runs without a hit, which closed the Baron’s margin to 6‑5. The Barons recovered when McLendon Sears stepped in to pitch, striking out four of six batters who came to the plate in the sixth inning; and

Whereas, John Ballard made the championship game‑saving catch for Wilson Hall that protected their 6‑5 victory and kept the trophy home for another year; and

Whereas, in a sport that demands impeccable eye‑hand coordination, as well as agility and speed, the Barons endured grueling practices and relentless drills to post an outstanding season and bring home another state title; and

Whereas, in his last season as head coach of the Barons, Tommy Jones and his talented coaching staff capitalized on their own athletic training and skill to mold a championship team and teach these young men valuable life lessons that will profit them on and off the baseball diamond; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate deeply appreciate the respect and honor that the Wilson Hall baseballers have brought to their school and their community and expect to hear of their continued accomplishments in the future. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, acknowledge and commend the Wilson Hall varsity baseball team, coaches, and school officials for a winning season and applaud them for garnering the 2015 Class AAA South Carolina Independent School Association State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Headmaster Fred Moulton and Head Coach Tommy Jones.

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