**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE TIM WHIPPLE ON COMPLETING HIS FORTIETH YEAR AS THE IRMO HIGH SCHOOL BOYS HEAD BASKETBALL COACH.

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly is pleased to learn that Tim Whipple, the Irmo High School head basketball coach, has completed his fortieth year of coaching for the Yellow Jackets; and

Whereas, now a notable Hall of Fame basketball coach with innumerable accolades, Coach Whipple began his career teaching and as the junior varsity basketball coach at Irmo in 1979. Just a few short years later, however, he began his role as the varsity basketball coach for the 1981‑1982 school year; and

Whereas, from the time he began coaching until now, Coach Whipple has compiled a staggering 781‑288 win‑loss record. Ranked second in the State for wins (781), he also holds the premiere title of the most State championship appearances of any 4A/5A coach with ten. Under his well‑seasoned guidance, the Irmo Yellow Jackets have won eighteen region championships, and have accumulated nine seasons of undefeated regional play; and

Whereas, further evidence of Coach Whipple’s success is evidenced by the Yellow Jackets’ thirty‑six state playoff appearances over the last thirty‑nine seasons. His athletes have also bolstered themselves through grueling seasons to capture five South Carolina Class AAAA State Championship titles; and

Whereas, during one particularly daunting stretch of time between 1989 and 1996, Coach Whipple led Irmo to the state title game six times, and captured the ultimate prize in 1991, 1994, and 1995. Irmo then re‑emerged in the 2010‑2011 season to claim victory in the State Championship game once again, and propelled by that victory, just two seasons later the team managed to achieve greatness, as they ended the season unbeaten, a first for Coach Whipple, as well as securing their fifth championship title; and

Whereas, since that time Coach Whipple has continued to make incredible runs through the regular season and push forward through the playoffs and into State Championship appearances; and

Whereas, respected across the state for his team’s competitiveness, sound fundamentals, and excellent sportsmanship, Coach Whipple has improved average players into elite athletes. The Yellow Jackets have enjoyed enormous success both on and off the court under the sound guidance of Coach Whipple, who now boasts over forty players who have participated at the collegiate level; and

Whereas, the three‑time South Carolina Coach of the Year, six‑time Area Coach of the Year, and fifteen‑time Region Coach of the Year, Coach Whipple has been honored many times by his peers for his nearly unparalleled success. In October 2001, he was inducted into the Erskine College Athletic Hall of Fame, and ten years later, in 2011, he was elected into the South Carolina Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame. Following that, Coach Whipple finally took the penultimate step and reached the pinnacle of State coach honors, as he was inducted into the South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly wish to congratulate Coach Tim Whipple for his many successes, and applaud him for the forty years he has devoted to bettering the athletes who compete for the Irmo High School basketball team. His mentorship has been an invaluable gift that he provides to the youth of this State. Now, therefore

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That members of the South Carolina General Assembly by this resolution, congratulate Tim Whipple on completing his fortieth year as the Irmo High School boys head basketball coach.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Coach Tim Whipple.

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