**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE HAMMOND SCHOOL VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR AN OUTSTANDING SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2021 SOUTH CAROLINA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ASSOCIATION CLASS 3A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the members of the Hammond School varsity football team rose to the occasion on Friday, November 19, 2021, to claim top honors for their fifth straight championship win; and

Whereas, Hammond fans were treated to an astounding spectacle beneath the lights at Buccaneer Field at Charleston Southern University as the Skyhawks defeated Trinity Collegiate 48‑15, capturing the South Carolina Independent School Association Class 3A State Championship title for the nineteenth time in the program’s history; and

Whereas, the Skyhawks, now under the leadership of Coach Jon Wheeler, who stepped in to fill the shoes of seventeen-year veteran Coach Erik Kimrey, never missed a beat as they displayed a level of exceptional drive and profound character to end the season holding the highest possible achievement. Locked into a tight 15‑14 game and down a point at halftime, the Skyhawks came alive in the second half to show exactly why they have come to be known as a football powerhouse in this State; and

Whereas, the victory on November 19 was the result of an exceptional team effort. With the rock-solid defensive front that was emblematic of their season‑long success holding off other teams, the Skyhawks shut out the Trinity Collegiate Titans in the second half. This allowed the offense, led by exceptional stand‑in quarterback Dylan Richardson, who took the responsibility after previous quarterback Jack Weston received an injury mid‑season, to gain its footing and make game‑winning adjustments. With the understanding that the Titans were focused on preventing the Skyhawks from fully using the talents of CJ Stokes, a running back committed to the University of Michigan Wolverines, they instead focused downfield using their passing game. Unable to withstand the full arsenal of Hammond’s offensive options, the Titans were overwhelmed as the Skyhawks added an additional thirty‑four unanswered points to the scoreboard; and

Whereas, the athletes on the Hammond Skyhawks football team have been driven all season long to prove their drive, determination, diligence, and work ethic are without parallel. With a winning legacy instilled in them by Coach Erik Kimrey, they continued to prove to both their new head coach, Jon Wheeler, as well as their fans, that they are a formidable program who will continue to provide explosive performances and that they should be watched with great excitement in the seasons to come; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives value the pride and recognition that the Hammond School Skyhawks have continued to earn for their school and their community and look forward to hearing of their accomplishments 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 Hammond School varsity football team, coaches, and school officials for an outstanding season and to congratulate them for winning the 2021 South Carolina Independent School Association Class 3A State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Headmaster Andrew North and Head Coach Jon Wheeler.

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