**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

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

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate is pleased to learn that the members of the Aynor High School baseball team of Horry County took top honors at the state competition held at Riley Park on Friday, May 20, 2016; and

Whereas, to the cheers of their exuberant fans, the Aynor Blue Jackets defeated the top‑ranked Strom Thurmond Rebels 9‑6 to capture the team’s first state trophy in school history and only the second ever for a high school in Horry County; and

Whereas, Aynor High School won the first game of the championship best‑out‑of‑three series 5‑4, but fell to Strom Thurmond in the second outing 10‑4, setting the stage for an exciting and decisive third game; and

Whereas, less than an hour before the start of the championship game, the scheduled Blue Jackets starting pitcher, Ridge Richardson, informed Aynor head coach Chad Sarvis that his arm was too sore to pitch; and

Whereas, Coach Sarvis quickly swapped out scorecards and sent the game one winning pitcher, sophomore Jason Duke, to the mound for the Blue Jackets; and

Whereas, having selflessly removed himself as the game three starting pitcher, junior Ridge Richardson knew he would have to pick up his team at the plate, and from Richardson’s clean‑up spot, the designated hitter recorded three RBIs, including two runs scored on a third‑inning double that started to swing momentum in Aynor’s direction following an early 3‑0 Strom Thurmond lead; and

Whereas, in the ensuing four innings, the Blue Jackets poured it on offensively while Strom Thurmond’s defense struggled, and even after the Rebels scored three runs to make it a one‑run game in the top of the sixth, Aynor stormed right back scoring two more runs of its own; and

Whereas, despite the misty, wet conditions, Aynor got plenty of offensive production from several places; the Blue Jackets’ number eight hitter, junior Luke Martin, was four‑for‑four, scoring three runs, and senior Caleb Nobles was two‑for‑two and drew three walks; and

Whereas, in a sport that demands strength, strategy, and quickness, Head Coach Chad Sarvis and his skilled coaching staff maximized their own athletic ability and training to mold a championship 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 Senate appreciate the pride and recognition that the Aynor High School baseball players have brought to their school and their community and look to hear of their continued achievements in the days ahead. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

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

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Michael McCracken and Coach Chad Sarvis.

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