**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE W. J. KEENAN HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2018 SOUTH CAROLINA CLASS AA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the members of the Keenan High School girls basketball team of Richland County took top honors at the state competition held at Colonial Life Arena in Columbia on Friday, March 2, 2018; and

Whereas, to the cheers of their exuberant fans, the Keenan Lady Raiders defeated the defending state champion, Mullins High School, 51‑28, and claimed the team’s third state championship title since 2008; and

Whereas, in the middle of their season, the Lady Raiders entered the New Year with a 1‑6 record after mostly playing teams from a higher classification, but the Keenan team managed to put 17 of their final 18 games in the “W” column; and

Whereas, Keenan showed up at the title game not just to play, but to dominate, against a team that had averaged more than 65 points per game and had not scored fewer than 44 points in a game all season. By the end of the first quarter, the Lady Raiders had hit the backboards to take a commanding 12‑3 lead over the Mullins Lady Auctioneers; and

Whereas, Keenan’s aggressive defense pressed thirty‑six turnovers from which the Lady Raiders carved out a sizable cache of points and shut Mullins down completely on attempts at 3‑point shots; and

Whereas, Keenan senior guard Jadimond Hickman led the Lady Raiders with 18 points and five steals while classmate Logan Taylor‑McDaniel posted 12 points and nine rebounds. Teammate Annastacia Hammonds added 7 points, A’Quiesha Taylor 5, Jamia Walker 5, Courtney Jones 3, and Iyona Haigler 1; and

Whereas, in a sport that exacts strength, agility, and accuracy, Head Coach Reggie McLain and his skilled coaching staff capitalized on their own athletic ability and training to produce a championship‑caliber team and teach these athletes lessons that will prove invaluable through life both on and off the court; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives appreciate the pride and recognition that the Keenan basketball players have brought to their school and their community and look to hear of their continued 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 W. J. Keenan High School girls varsity basketball team, coaches, and school officials for an extraordinary season and congratulate them for winning the 2018 South Carolina Class AA State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Vondré T. Whaley and Coach Reggie McLain.

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