**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND THE COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY RUGBY TEAM FOR ITS OUTSTANDING SEASON AND FOR CAPTURING THE 2009 NATIONAL SMALL COLLEGE RUGBY ORGANIZATION (NSCRO) MEN’S COLLEGIATE DIVISION III NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP, AND TO HONOR THE TEAM’S EXCEPTIONAL PLAYERS, COACH, AND STAFF.

Whereas, capping off a remarkable year, the Coastal Carolina University (CCU) rugby team defeated SUNY‑Oswego 36‑15 in the final, to capture the 2009 National Small College Rugby Organization (NSCRO) Men’s Collegiate Division III National Championship title; and

Whereas, Coach Robert Kegler, with dedication and persistence, built his rugby program into championship caliber and proved it on the field; and

Whereas, this talented disciplined team includes Evan Beard, Donald Blake, Sam Bowman, Matt DeCastro, David DelPizzo, Wes Foushee, Bryan Greene, Clay Haley, Paul Iovanna, Ben Jenkins, Matt Howe, Alexandre Marchon, Brendan McClatchey, Chase McGuire, Matt Mendelssohn, Alex Nazon, Robert Schweitzer, Stephen Pease, Ryan Swartling, Andrew Tsafos, Emily Washam, and Alizar Zorgew; and

Whereas, the CCU Rugby Club is the first sport club in university history to win a national championship. Club sports are not affiliated with the university’s athletic department and are governed by the Department of Campus Recreation. The number of university club teams has swelled from six to seventeen in the past year, and many of them compete nationally; and

Whereas, adding further luster to an already stellar rugby season, scrumhalf Clayton “LB” Haley was selected as the Championship Most Valuable Player; and

Whereas, the six‑year‑old team also had an undefeated spring season in the Palmetto Rugby Union, sweeping the USA Rugby South playoffs and winning the national championship; and

Whereas, the Coastal Carolina rugby team has brought great pride and recognition to its school, community, and State, and the House of Representatives is pleased to have this opportunity to recognize such a wonderful and talented group of young athletes. 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 commend the Coastal Carolina University rugby team for its outstanding season and for capturing the 2009 National Small College Rugby Organization (NSCRO) Men’s Collegiate Division III National Championship, and honor the team’s exceptional players, coach, and staff.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to each member of the Coastal Carolina rugby team, and Coach Robert Kegler.

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