**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE LAURENCE MANNING ACADEMY VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR AN OUTSTANDING SEASON, AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE SOUTH CAROLINA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ASSOCIATION CLASS AAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the members of the Laurence Manning Academy varsity boys basketball team of Clarendon County took top honors at the state competition held at the Sumter Civic Center on Saturday, February 25, 2012; and

Whereas, to the delight of their fans and the disappointment of their opponents, the Laurence Manning Swampcats delivered a hail of 3‑point baskets in the second quarter that the Heathwood Hall Highlanders could not answer; and

Whereas, the Swampcats wrested the state crown from last year’s champions, pressing Heathwood with a relentless defense as the Highlanders tried in vain to retain their title; and

Whereas, at the end of the first quarter, the Highlanders led 14‑11, but when the Swampcats hit the backboards with their accurate 3‑pointers, Heathwood failed to respond; and

Whereas, Laurence Manning delivered a decisive 51‑35 victory to take home the gold, finishing the season with a 19‑3 record, and Swampcats Kalum McIntyre and Ryan Anderson were named to the all‑tournament team; and

Whereas, in a sport that demands strength, skill, and accuracy, Head Coach Will Epps and his skilled coaching staff used 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 court; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the pride and recognition that the Laurence Manning Academy varsity boys 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 Laurence Manning Academy varsity boys basketball team, coaches, and school officials for an outstanding season, and congratulate them for winning the South Carolina Independent School Association Class AAA State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Tripp Boykin and Coach Will Epps.

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