**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE ASHLEY RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY BASEBALL TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR AN OUTSTANDING SEASON, AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2012 CLASS AAAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the members of the Ashley Ridge High School varsity baseball team of Dorchester County took top honors at the state competition on Monday, May 21, 2012; and

Whereas, to the delight of their fans, the Ashley Ridge Swamp Foxes defeated the James F. Byrnes Rebels in a dramatic ninth‑inning victory 4‑3 to bring home the first state trophy in any sport for the four‑year‑old school; and

Whereas, pitcher Austin Livingston dug deep as he threw for the complete‑game effort, giving up nine hits during nine innings on the mound, but keeping his composure to strike out eight batters while walking only three; and

Whereas, the Rebels posted a homerun in the first inning that was unanswered by Ashley Ridge until the bottom of the third, and Byrnes regained the lead in the fourth inning with two more runs, which were met by the Rebels in the bottom of the fifth; and

Whereas, both teams left three base runners stranded at the end of the seventh inning, and both went three‑up, three‑down in the eighth; and

Whereas, when the Swamp Foxes had the bases loaded in the bottom of the ninth with one out and a tied score, sophomore shortstop Jason Miller, with only three times at bat this season, stepped to the plate and handed runner Jacob Thompson a sacrifice fly to right field, giving Ashley Ridge the winning run; and

Whereas, in a sport that demands strength, strategy, and quickness, Head Coach B. J. Bellush and his skilled coaching staff capitalized on their own athletic ability and training to build a championship team and teach these athletes mental toughness that will prove invaluable through life both on and off the diamond; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives appreciate this recognition that the Ashley Ridge High School varsity baseball players have brought to their school and their community and hope that it will be the beginning of many more victories for the school 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 Ashley Ridge High School varsity baseball team, coaches, and school officials for an outstanding season, and congratulate them for winning the 2012 Class AAAA State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Karen Radcliffe and Coach B. J. Bellush.

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