**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA SUMTER “FIRE ANTS” BASEBALL TEAM ON AN OUTSTANDING SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR CAPTURING THE NATIONAL JUNIOR COLLEGE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION’S REGION 10 CHAMPIONSHIP.

Whereas, the USC Sumter “Fire Ants” baseball team won the National Junior College Athletic Association’s (NJCAA) Region 10 Championship in a series against Louisburg College on May 7, 2014; and

Whereas, the Fire Ants won the Region 10 Championship in 2009 and 2011 as well as in 2014. They also placed second in the 2014 Eastern District Tournament. The team’s overall record is 283-118 and 41-15 for 2014; and

Whereas, Sumter hosted the Eastern District Tournament. The Fire Ants played teams from New York, Maryland and Spartanburg before falling to Spartanburg Methodist College. They were one win away from attending the Junior College World Series in Grand Junction, Colorado; and

Whereas, the team is led by Head Coach Tim Medlin, who coached at Newberry College and spent time with the Columbia Blowfish. Wes Potter and Josh Eachues serve as assistant coaches. Under Medlin’s leadership, the team, which receives no school funding, has raised over $10,000 to fund the program; and

Whereas, not only do the players represent the school well in the classroom and on the field, but they are also dedicated to helping others and spend a significant portion of their time doing volunteer work. This year the baseball players helped mentor younger students, volunteered for the Salvation Army at Christmas and helped feed more than eight hundred needy families in the Sumter area; and

Whereas, between 1970 and 2006, USC Sumter had no on-campus competitive sports. USC Sumter now has two collegiate teams-baseball and softball-both of which compete in Region 10 of Division I in the National Junior College Athletic Association; and

Whereas, many former Fire Ants team members have continued to play baseball at NCAA Division I and II universities, in the minor leagues, and several have been selected in the MLB draft. Current players have received scholarships to attend four-year universities; and

Whereas, the Fire Ants have an extraordinary recruiting class set for the 2015 season. Players from across the Southeast have made plans to come to Sumter for a chance to compete in the NJCAA and for USC Sumter; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly appreciates the pride and recognition that the Fire Ants baseball team has brought to the University of South Carolina Sumter and the State of South Carolina, and the members expect to hear of continued achievements in the years ahead. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

That the members of the General Assembly, by this resolution, recognize and commend the University of South Carolina Sumter “Fire Ants” baseball team on an outstanding season and congratulate them on capturing the National Junior College Athletic Association’s Region 10 Championship.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Head Coach Tim Medlin.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑