**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE THE LATTA HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM FOR CAPTURING THE 2014 CLASS A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE AND TO HONOR THE TEAM’S EXCEPTIONAL PLAYERS, COACHES, AND STAFF.

Whereas, fully focused, the Latta High School girls basketball team crowned a fine 19‑4 season by capturing the 2014 Class A State Championship title, cruising past St. Joseph’s 65‑39 at the Colonial Life Arena in Columbia on Saturday, March 8, 2014; and

Whereas, jubilant Latta fans cheered with excitement as the Lady Vikings, playing as a team with one heartbeat, nailed the championship crown; and

Whereas, the road to the state title was not easy for the Latta team, but the Lady Vikings, who had advanced past the second round just once in the previous six seasons, reached the state finals with back‑to‑back wins over Timmonsville and Hemingway, the last two state champions in Class A. These victories were a promise of the triumph to come at the 2014 title bout, which handed Latta its first state championship since 2007; and

Whereas, much like they’ve done all year, the Lady Vikings took control of the game with defense early, building an 11‑4 lead in the first quarter. They allowed just nine points in the first quarter, led 34‑19 at halftime, and forged ahead by as many as 28 points in the second half. It was one of the most complete efforts of the season for Latta; and

Whereas, TaKeria Legette, who led Latta with 20 points and 13 rebounds, was one of four Lady Vikings who scored double figures. Rounding out the double‑figure quartet, Jessica Evans contributed 18; Brittany Burgess added 13; and Mallory Townsend scored 11. Maya Wright had 16 rebounds for the Lady Vikings, who had a 60‑41 advantage on the boards. Latta also outscored St. Joseph’s 32‑14 in the paint; and

Whereas, Head Coach Curtis Jackson honed his players into a championship machine and saw the fruits of his labors as the title trophy was hoisted; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives takes great pleasure in recognizing the young women of the Latta High School girls basketball team for leading with excellence both in the classroom and on the court and expects to hear of continued great achievements in the years 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 congratulate the Latta High School girls basketball team for capturing the 2014 Class A State Championship title and honor the team’s exceptional players, coaches, and staff.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Superintendent Dr. John Kirby, Principal George Liebenrood, and Coach Curtis Jackson of Latta High School.

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