**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR BOB KLEINKNECHT, WEST FLORENCE HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL COACH, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER THIRTY‑EIGHT YEARS OF OUTSTANDING COACHING, AND TO WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, it is altogether fitting and proper that the members of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina should pause in their deliberations to express their sincere gratitude to Bob Kleinknecht for his significant contributions to the all‑American pastime in the Palmetto State; and

Whereas, a native of Silver Springs, Maryland, Bob Kleinknecht moved to South Carolina in the early 1970s to play baseball for the University of South Carolina Gamecocks under the highly regarded Coach Bobby Richardson; and

Whereas, after his college career ended, he served as a graduate assistant at the University of South Carolina for two years and then moved to Orangeburg where he coached two seasons; and

Whereas, in 1977, Bob Kleinknecht became the third coach in West Florence High School’s history, and the first year, he also served as head football coach at the school; and

Whereas, during his thirty‑eight seasons at West Florence, the baseball team made the playoffs thirty‑two times, and he coached the Knights to two Class AAAA state title appearances, taking the state championship in 1995; and

Whereas, Coach Kleinknecht stressed old school values and, what he called, a blue‑collar, hard‑working approach with his players; and

Whereas, the West Florence Knights finished their 2015 season, their last with Coach Kleinknecht, with a record of 16‑7, and his career ended with a 632‑303 record, making him the third winningest coach in South Carolina High School League history; and

Whereas, he plans to spend many happy hours of retirement with his wife Marylyn and their children, and looks forward especially to watching his son Barrett play minor league baseball with the Triple‑A Gwinnett Braves and visiting with his daughter Lindsay in Columbia; and

Whereas, in a career marked by playing fair and playing hard, Coach Kleinknecht will be remembered with high regard long after his retirement by his team members and his colleagues alike as a cornerstone at West Florence; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is grateful for the years of unparalleled dedication that Bob Kleinknecht has devoted to training young men to play baseball and to work hard in life, and the members wish him many years of enjoyment in his well‑earned retirement. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina, by this resolution, recognize and honor Bob Kleinknecht, West Florence High School baseball coach, upon the occasion of his retirement after thirty‑eight years of outstanding coaching, and wish him continued success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Coach Bob Kleinknecht.

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