**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE LUGOFF‑ELGIN MIDDLE SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR A REMARKABLE SEASON AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR WINNING THE 2016 SOUTH CAROLINA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the members of the Lugoff‑Elgin middle school wrestling team of Kershaw County took top honors at the Carolina Invitational held at Lexington High School on January 30, 2016, to claim the 2016 South Carolina State Championship title; and

Whereas, to the delight of their exuberant fans, the Lugoff‑Elgin Mighty Leopards defeated some ninety other middle school wrestling teams to capture the state title, their ninth state title in thirteen years; and

Whereas, the victory of the Mighty Leopard grapplers also was made more rewarding when teammate Markeith Drakeford won an individual state title in the 138‑pound division; and

Whereas, not a large middle school, Lugoff‑Elgin competed against many schools nearly twice their size to post an undefeated season, and the Leopards listed twelve individual state qualifiers; and

Whereas, although the Middle School State Championship run by the South Carolina Wrestling Coaches Association is not sanctioned by the South Carolina High School League, it is unofficially recognized statewide that when a team wins the Carolina Invitational with more than ninety schools represented, that team is the state champion; and

Whereas, in a sport that demands mental stamina, individual excellence, and strength, Head Coach Justin Ross and his skilled coaching staff maximized their own athletic ability and training to forge a championship team and teach these athletes lessons that will prove invaluable both on and off the mats; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives appreciate the pride and recognition that these wrestlers have brought to their school and their community and look to hear of their continued accomplishments in the future. 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 Lugoff‑Elgin middle school wrestling team, coaches, and school officials for a remarkable season and congratulate them for winning the 2016 South Carolina State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Karen Bullard and Coach Justin Ross.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑