**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR COACH PAUL “RUSTY” HAMILTON, JR., OF JAMES ISLAND FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CAREER OF NEARLY THREE DECADES AS BOTH COACH AND EDUCATOR AND TO EXTEND BEST WISHES FOR MUCH CONTINUED SUCCESS AND FULFILLMENT IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

Whereas, it is with great pleasure that the South Carolina House of Representatives celebrates those individuals who give tirelessly of themselves to educate the young people of this great State; and

Whereas, prominent in the roll call of such benefactors to our youth is Coach Paul “Rusty” Hamilton, Jr., of James Island, who for almost three decades instilled in his student athletes the skills and character traits necessary for success in the classroom, on the field, and on the mat; and

Whereas, a native of Charleston, Rusty Hamilton graduated from Florida State University and then began to build a coaching career that earned him the high respect of all who knew him. This exemplary role model taught his athletes how to accept both victory and defeat with dignity and shaped many a young person’s understanding of what it means to be a good citizen; and

Whereas, at the high school level, he coached football, wrestling, and track; at the college level, he concentrated on coaching football (Furman University, The Citadel) and wrestling (The Citadel); and

Whereas, Rusty Hamilton coached in two state high school football championship games and captured the state title in one of them; and

Whereas, he added substantially to his reputation through his success as one of the founding fathers of high school wrestling in South Carolina. While at St. Andrews High School, he won two state wrestling championships, posted two undefeated seasons, and coached fifteen individual champions; and

Whereas, in recognition of his distinguished service, this twice-named South Carolina Wrestling Coach of the Year achieved induction into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame; and

Whereas, in present recognition, the House congratulates Coach Hamilton, who began a well-deserved retirement in 2004, and his former grapplers as they celebrate the recent fiftieth anniversary of St. Andrews High School’s second South Carolina wrestling state championship; and

Whereas, grateful for Rusty Hamilton’s legacy of consistent commitment and excellence, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to salute this praiseworthy coach and mentor of the Palmetto State’s most precious asset, its youth. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, honor Coach Paul “Rusty” Hamilton, Jr., of James Island for his outstanding career of nearly three decades as both coach and educator and extend best wishes for much continued success and fulfillment in the days ahead.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Coach Rusty Hamilton.

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