**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR THE A.C. FLORA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM AND COACHES ON THEIR IMPRESSIVE WIN OF THE 2020 CLASS AAAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE AND TO SALUTE THEM ON A FABULOUS UNDEFEATED SEASON.

Whereas, the air on your face and the ground under your feet feel different when you reach the top of the mountain. The A.C. Flora Falcons found that out on Saturday, December 5, 2020, when they knocked off North Myrtle Beach 42‑7 to claim the Class 4A State Football Championship. It was Flora’s first state championship in football and the first by a Columbia city school since 1970; and

Whereas, the scene of this well‑earned triumph was Columbia’s Charlie W. Johnson Stadium at Benedict College, used by the Falcons, who dominated the Chiefs from the first quarter, to demonstrate clearly why Flora rose to the top of the rankings. With its newly minted title win, Flora finished the season 9‑0; and

Whereas, it was Flora’s first appearance in a football state title game and comes four years after the team finished 0‑10 in 2017. Since then, the Falcons have compiled a record of 28‑5, including 19‑2 under Coach Dustin Curtis, who was an assistant at Flora for seven years before returning in 2019 to lead the program; and

Whereas, Flora, which had been leaning on its ground game in the postseason, used a combination of a big‑play passing game and strong running game to wear down North Myrtle Beach’s defense and take control of the title match in the first half. Quarterback Ethan Beamish threw a pair of touchdown passes to Eriq Rice in the first half, and Matt Pack added a touchdown run with twenty seconds left in the first half to put the Falcons up 20‑7. Beamish, who transferred from Hillcrest High in Greenville, was 18‑of‑25 passing for 272 yards and three touchdowns. Rice was the Falcons’ top receiver with seven catches for 117 yards and two scores; and

Whereas, Flora’s running game, which was averaging more than 400 yards a game in the playoffs, gained 211 yards and didn’t have a 100‑yard rusher for the first time in four postseason games. Still, the Falcons averaged five yards a carry and had two touchdown runs of 30 yards or more by Markel Townsend and Terrell Coleman. This played out in the fourth quarter as the Falcons sealed the win with a 65‑yard touchdown run by Coleman. The A.C. Flora defense, rock‑solid all season, then put the finishing touches on a controlling performance (allowing 172 total yards and holding North Myrtle Beach to its lowest point total of the season) with an interception by Jaylen Brown in the final seconds; and

Whereas, the members of the A.C. Flora football team have given their school and community reason to be proud of their accomplishments, and the General Assembly takes great pleasure in adding its collective voice to the encomiums flowing in to this outstanding group of young athletes. Go, Falcons! Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, honor the A.C. Flora High School football team and coaches on their impressive win of the 2020 Class AAAA State Championship title and salute them on a fabulous undefeated season.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Susan Childs and Coach Dustin Curtis of A.C. Flora High School.

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