**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR COACH MIKE SROCK OF BYRNES HIGH SCHOOL FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CAREER AS BOTH COACH AND EDUCATOR, TO CONGRATULATE HIM ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT, AND TO WISH HIM MUCH SUCCESS IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

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 Byrnes High School’s retiring speed and strength coach, Mike Srock, who for more than two decades has instilled in his student athletes the skills and character traits necessary for success in the classroom, on the court and field, and in the workplace; and

Whereas, Coach Srock began his career at Byrnes as a volunteer middle school coach but quickly advanced to the post of speed and strength coach at the insistence of then‑head football coach Bobby Bentley, who promoted him to the position after learning of his background as a strength coach at St. Thomas University. Coach Srock was among the first full‑time paid strength coaches in South Carolina, a position that is now commonplace across the State; and

Whereas, Coach Srock’s presence paid immediate and lasting dividends for the Rebels. Since he joined the athletics staff, the Rebels have won a total of sixteen state championships, including eight football titles, three softball state championships, two cross country titles, and one state championship each in basketball, track, and volleyball. The Rebels won three straight Upper State baseball titles during Srock’s tenure, and his training regimen produced numerous individual state champions, including twenty‑five state strength meet winners; and

Whereas, in November, Mike Srock was selected for inclusion in the National High School Strength Coaches Association Hall of Fame. He is one of only five coaches so honored since the inception of the Hall of Fame in 2018; and

Whereas, Tony Gillespie, athletic director at Byrnes, offers this tribute to Coach Srock in explaining that the strength coach’s contributions to the Rebels’ athletic programs cannot be overstated: “He is a cornerstone of Byrnes athletics and the District 5 community. He is a major reason Byrnes athletics has been so successful since he walked onto the scene in the late 1990s. He’s the reason strength coaches in South Carolina high schools have become so important”; and

Whereas, during Coach Srock’s well‑earned retirement, the House trusts that he will find himself more frequently able to enjoy time with his wife, grandchildren, and great‑grandchildren, a pleasure he has promised himself; and

Whereas, grateful for Mike Srock’s legacy of consistent commitment and excellence, the House is pleased to wish this dedicated coach well as he enters retirement on June 30 of this year, and the members extend best wishes for much satisfaction in the more leisurely pace of the days 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 honor Coach Mike Srock of Byrnes High School for his outstanding career as both coach and educator, congratulate him on the occasion of his retirement, and wish him much success in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Coach Mike Srock.

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