**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE CATAWBA RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SAM RICH ON CAPTURING HIS SECOND STRAIGHT INDIVIDUAL CROSS COUNTRY STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE AND TO WISH HIM MUCH CONTINUED SUCCESS IN HIS UPCOMING COLLEGIATE CAREER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME.

Whereas, the House of Representatives is pleased to learn that on November 11, 2021, Catawba Ridge High School senior Sam Rich, a Class AAAA runner, won his second cross country state championship title, completing the race with an impressive time of fifteen minutes and twenty seconds; and

Whereas, the state championship race was held at the Sandhills Research Center in Columbia. The race, which was the standard 5 kilometers, or roughly 3.1 miles, had one hundred sixteen competitors for the boys and one hundred twenty‑one competitors for the girls in just Class AAAA; and

Whereas, among his many honors, Rich has been named the 2020‑21 South Carolina Gatorade Player of the Year for boys’ cross country, is currently the top runner in the State of South Carolina, and boasts the fastest 5K time in the nation this season; and

Whereas, having signed with the University of Notre Dame, which hosts one of the top running programs in the country, Sam Rich will continue his running career as a proud member of the Fighting Irish. His illustrious high school career is a bright harbinger of his potential in the next tier of competition; and

Whereas, currently Catawba Ridge’s only state champion, Rich has helped to lead the new program, established in 2019. In those three short years, the school and its talented athletes have shown it is a program to watch with great anticipation, as they haven’t lost a regional championship yet. Led by individuals with a great dedication and desire to compete against other programs, the athletes of Catawba Ridge have set up their program for much continued success; and

Whereas, the House takes great pleasure in saluting Sam Rich on taking home his second state cross country title and for the exceptional overall sports record he has compiled thus far. The members look with interest to hearing of the future successes of this talented athlete. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate Catawba Ridge High School senior Sam Rich on capturing his second straight individual cross country state championship title and to wish him much continued success in his upcoming collegiate career at the University of Notre Dame.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Sam Rich.

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