**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE GRAY COLLEGIATE ACADEMY BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM FOR CAPTURING THE 2022 CLASS 2A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE AND TO HONOR THE TEAM’S EXCEPTIONAL PLAYERS, COACHES, AND STAFF.

Whereas, in a clash of 2A titans, the Gray Collegiate Academy boys basketball team crowned an outstanding season by netting the 2022 Class 2A State Championship title, defeating York Prep 56‑53 on Saturday, March 5, 2022, at the USC Aiken Convocation Center; and

Whereas, the win marks the fourth championship in the past five seasons for the War Eagles; and

Whereas, the War Eagles used stellar on‑ball defense to slow the number‑one‑ranked York Prep guards. Tre White led the way, scoring 18 points in his best game of the postseason, but White wasn’t the only one to contribute on offense. Calvin Hall scored 12, including a clutch free throw to give Gray Collegiate a 3‑point lead. Avante Parker scored 9, while Jalen Jefferson scored 8. Tory Kelly and Devin Johnson rounded out the scoring with 4 and 5 points, respectively; and

Whereas, for the second straight year when the two teams played, it came down to the final possession. Gray Collegiate led 55‑53, and York Prep had a chance to tie but missed the front end of a 1‑and‑1. War Eagles senior Calvin Hall was fouled and hit 1‑of‑2 free throws to extend the lead with fifteen seconds left; and

Whereas, during the timeout, Gray’s Head Coach Dion Bethea told his players not to foul before a 3‑point attempt and to play the possession out. He wanted them to double‑team York Prep All‑State guard Kory Davis on the final possession. The War Eagles tried to, but Davis still was able to break free and attempt a game‑tying shot; and

Whereas, Davis missed the shot, and Gray Collegiate junior guard Montravius White secured the rebound and threw the ball up in the air as time expired, setting off a celebration midcourt. And seniors Tory Kelly, Calvin Hall, Malachi Cooper, and Rivers Teeter saw their playing career at Gray Collegiate come to a satisfying end with a state championship; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives takes great pleasure in recognizing the young men of the Gray Collegiate Academy boys basketball team for leading with excellence, both in the classroom and on the court, and expects to hear of continued great achievements in the years ahead. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate the Gray Collegiate Academy boys basketball team for capturing the 2022 Class 2A State Championship title and honor the team’s exceptional players, coaches, and staff.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Brian Newsome and Head Coach Dion Bethea of Gray Collegiate Academy.

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