HJR146

HTZN668-1

By Representatives Bedsole, Mooney, Carns, Paschal, Hulsey, DuBose, Ellis

RFD: RULES

First Read: 02-Apr-24

HJR____ COMMENDING GABE HIXENBAUGH ON WINNING THE NCAA DIVISION II 133-POUND WRESTLING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP WHILE REPRESENTING THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTEVALLO.

WHEREAS, with great pride and special pleasure, highest commendations and congratulations are conveyed to Gabe Hixenbaugh, a native son of Alabaster, Alabama, on winning the National College Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II 133-pound Wrestling National Championship while representing the University of Montevallo on March 16, 2024, at Hartman Arena in Park City, Kansas; and

WHEREAS, the win makes Gabe Hixenbaugh the first-ever National Champion of any sport in Division II history at Montevallo and completes the wrestling program's inaugural season; and

WHEREAS, in the final match of the championship against defending champion Gavin Quiocho of Glenville State, Hixenbaugh recorded a crucial three-point takedown near the end of the first period; Quiocho grabbed an escape point for the lone point of the second period as Hixenbaugh led 3-1; with the National Title hanging in the balance, Hixenbaugh quickly scored an escape point of his own as the third period began and held Quiocho scoreless the rest of the way to earn the 4-1 decision win and the National Title; and

WHEREAS, Gabe Hixenbaugh's historic season comes to

an end with a 31-0 record and 14 wins over ranked opponents; he has decisively earned a spot on the All-American team; and

WHEREAS, the path to the finals for Gabe Hixenbaugh saw a tech fall win in the first round, a major decision in the quarterfinals, a buzzer-beating decision win in the semis, and a win by decision in the finals; and

WHEREAS, before coming to Montevallo, Gabe Hixenbaugh won five individual state championships for Thompson High School, becoming the second-winningest wrestler in program history with a 249-16 record, wrestling on three state championship teams and winning the Junior Nationals; and

WHEREAS, he then wrestled in Division I for four years with Campbell University, earning SoCon All-Freshman Team honors in 2021 and finishing 17-1 in his senior season; and

WHEREAS, Hixenbaugh used his graduate transfer to come to Montevallo to help build the first-year program, pursue his master's degree, and wrestle close to his hometown; and

WHEREAS, the occasion of Gabe Hixenbaugh winning the NCAA 133-pound Division II Wrestling Championship while representing the University of Montevallo is an accomplishment to be celebrated; his single-minded dedication, strong desire for success, constant training, and tireless and diligent efforts to achieve excellence serve as a valuable example to young athletes across the country and in his home state of Alabama; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we highly commend and congratulate Gabe Hixenbaugh for his outstanding NCAA Division II wrestling season and for winning the National Championship while representing the University of Montevallo in the first year of the program, and we hereby dedicate this resolution to him with utmost admiration, along with sincere best wishes for continued success.