

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 221

WHEREAS, The Carthage High School football team once again reached the pinnacle of success by capturing the 2016 University Interscholastic League Class 4A Division 1 state championship on December 16 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington; and

WHEREAS, Under the direction of head coach Scott Surratt, the Bulldogs marched through the postseason with triumphs over Silsbee, Houston North Forest, Henderson, Stafford, and China Spring High Schools, setting the stage for a showdown with Wylie High School of Abilene in the title game; and

WHEREAS, Rallying from an early 14-point deficit, the Bulldogs notched two touchdowns and a field goal against Wylie to close out the first half tied at 17; though both teams were held scoreless in the third quarter, Carthage launched a devastating ground assault in the final frame, tallying two rushing touchdowns to win by a score of 31-17; with the victory, Carthage clinched its fifth state title in the past nine years, and Coach Surratt earned the distinction of becoming one of only four Texas high school football coaches with five or more championship trophies; and

WHEREAS, The Bulldogs offense was led by junior running back Keaontay Ingram, who rushed for 180 yards and two touchdowns on his way to being named the Offensive Most Valuable Player; pacing the defense was senior defensive tackle Austin Russell, who recovered two fumbles to earn the Defensive Most Valuable Player award; en route to the state crown, Carthage also received valuable contributions from the other members of the roster; and

WHEREAS, Through their superior caliber of play in 2016, the Carthage Bulldogs have furthered their reputation as one of the elite teams in Texas high school football, and they may take justifiable pride in their accomplishments; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 85th Legislature, hereby congratulate the Carthage High School football team on winning the 2016 University Interscholastic League Class 4A Division 1 state championship and extend to all those associated with the squad sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the team as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Hughes

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 21, 2017.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate