



"The Peak of Good Living"

TOWN OF APEX
NORTH CAROLINA

Proclamation

Apex High School Lady Cougars Softball State Champions

from the Office of the Mayor

WHEREAS, On Saturday, June 3rd, 2023, the Apex High School Lady Cougars Softball Team won the 2023 North Carolina High School Athletic Association State 4A Championship, defeating the Hickory Ridge High School Ragin' Bulls from Harrisburg, North Carolina 2 games to 1; and,

WHEREAS, The Lady Cougars defeated the number 1 and number 2 ranked teams in the tournament on their journey to becoming state champions; and,

WHEREAS, In Game 1 of the Championship Series, Apex High lost and went down 1-0 in the series, setting the stage for the following games to test their heart, resiliency, and determination; and,

WHEREAS, In Game 2, the Cougars clawed their way back from a 4-0 deficit to win 8-6 in extra innings, thanks to a walk-off home run from Senior Kaleigh Ayscue; and,

WHEREAS, In Game 3, Apex High once again found themselves on the brink of defeat, entering the final inning down 5-2, before putting on a heroic display at the plate to score 6 unanswered runs and win 8-5, and;

WHEREAS, After the series, Head Coach Adam Renzi described his team as "gritty", and their gutsy performances with their backs against the wall earned the team the moniker of the "Cardiac Cougars" from members of sports media, and;

WHEREAS, Led by Coach Renzi and Assistant Coach Jessica Ricks, the 2022-2023 North Carolina 4A High School Softball Champions are Leah Kendall, Bailey Sigmon, Madeline Degan, Kaleigh Ayscue, Anamie Whittlesey, Lauren McMahon, Amanda Essig, Analiza Whittlesey, Abigail O'Connor, Avery Dearman, Kathryn Curry, Kendall Bradshaw, Kaylee Kaufman, Hailey Spielman, Hannah Tuttle, and Alyssa Kaufman.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jacques K. Gilbert, Mayor of Apex, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim, June 13th, 2023, "Apex High Lady Cougars Softball Champions Day" in the Town of Apex. I commend these talented athletes and committed coaches for displaying excellence and camaraderie, and encourage residents to send their congratulations to the team, and to support youth athletics in Apex.

I hereby set my hand and have caused the Seal of the Town of Apex, North Carolina, to be affixed this the 13th day of June 2023

Jacques Gilbert, Mayor