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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 99

Offered January 19, 2000

Commending the Virginia Tech football team.

Patrons—Shuler, Abbitt, Albo, Almand, Amundson, Armstrong, Barlow, Baskerville, Black, Blevins, Bloxom, Bolvin, Brink, Broman, Bryant, Callahan, Christian, Clement, Councill, Cranwell, Crittenden, Darner, Davis, Day, DeBoer, Deeds, Diamonstein, Dickinson, Drake, Dudley, Grayson, Hamilton, Hargrove, Harris, Hull, Ingram, Jackson, Joannou, Johnson, Jones, J.C., Jones, S.C., Katzen, Keister, Landes, Larrabee, Louderback, May, McClure, McEachin, McQuigg, Melvin, Moran, Morgan, Moss, O'Brien, Orrock, Parrish, Plum, Rhodes, Robinson, Rollison, Ruff, Rust, Scott, Stump, Tata, Tate, Thomas, Van Yahres, Wagner, Ware, Watts, Weatherholtz, Wilkins, Williams and Woodrum; Senators: Barry, Bolling, Byrne, Chichester, Colgan, Couric, Edwards, Forbes, Hanger, Hawkins, Holland, Houck, Howell, Lambert, Lucas, Marsh, Martin, Marye, Maxwell, Miller, K.G., Miller, Y.B., Mims, Newman, Norment, Potts, Puckett, Puller, Quayle, Rerras, Reynolds, Saslaw, Schrock, Stolle, Stosch, Ticer, Trumbo, Wampler, Watkins, Whipple and Williams

WHEREAS, the undefeated Virginia Tech football team completed the 1999 season as the most successful team in Virginia Tech history; and

WHEREAS, the Hokies' season consisted of superlatives, dominant victories, high national rankings, team and individual honors, and unalloyed pleasure on the part of their supporters; and

WHEREAS, from their first game, a shellacking of James Madison University, to their last, a waxing of a strong Boston College team, the Hokies delighted their followers, dominated opponents, and impressed the nation's college football experts; and

WHEREAS, during a magical season, the Hokies caught everyone's attention by destroying traditional power Syracuse by a 62 - 0 score, then steadily moved up in the rankings as they continued to dominate their opponents by scoring an average of 41 points per game, the best in the country; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech's senior-led defense proved itself by yielding only 10.5 points per game, harassing opponent's quarterbacks, and shutting down opponents' rushing attacks by yielding only 75 yards per game, third in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Big East Conference champions for the third time, the Hokies became the first team to sweep all five Big East postseason individual awards: offensive player of the year, Michael Vick; defensive player of the year, Corey Moore; special teams player of the year, Shayne Graham; rookie of the year, Michael Vick; and coach of the year, Frank Beamer; and

WHEREAS, on the national level, the Hokies' defense was ranked in the top ten in all defensive categories, many individual players on both offense and defense won All-America honors, and Corey Moore and Michael Vick were recognized repeatedly for their extraordinary performances; and

WHEREAS, in finishing with a record of 11 - 0 and a number two ranking in both the Associated Press poll and the Bowl Championship Series standings, the Hokies were extended an invitation to play for the national championship against Florida State University at the Sugar Bowl, a first for any football team from the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, by their conduct on and off the field, by their grace under pressure, by their winning performance under unprecedented national scrutiny, by their exuberance and positive attitude, and by the unparalleled excellence of their performance on the football field, the 1999 Virginia Tech Hokies have earned all of the accolades they have been accorded; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly salute the Hokies for brilliantly representing Virginia Tech and the Commonwealth during the 1999 football season; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Head Coach Frank Beamer as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the extraordinary performance of the 1999 Virginia Tech football team.

ENGROSSED

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