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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 281

Offered January 24, 2008

*Commending Chris Long.*

Patron—Toscano and Bell; Senator: Deeds

WHEREAS, Chris Long, star senior defensive lineman for the Cavaliers, has been an exemplary team leader and his outstanding performance throughout his college career has elevated the level of the game of football at the University of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, as team captain for the second year, Chris Long was a valuable asset to the Cavaliers who finished the regular season with a 9-3 overall record and in second place in the Atlantic Coast Conference's Coastal Division with a 6-2 league record; and

WHEREAS, the Cavaliers were invited to play in the 2008 Konica Minolta Gator Bowl against Texas Tech on New Years Day at Jacksonville Municipal Stadium, where Chris Long received Most Valuable Player of the game honors; and

WHEREAS, growing up in Ivy, Virginia, Chris Long was a high school All-American standout on both the offensive and defensive lines at St. Anne's-Belfield School in Charlottesville; in his senior year, he assisted on 91 tackles, 23 tackles for a loss, and 15 sacks to help his undefeated high school team win the state championship; and

WHEREAS, in his senior year at the University of Virginia, Chris Long was nationally ranked third in sacks and fourth in tackling by a lineman; and

WHEREAS, the awards and accolades for Chris Long are impressive, including being named the First-Team All-America by the American Football Coaches Association, First-Team All-America by Rivals.com, Atlantic Coast Conference Defensive Player of the Year, First-Team All-Atlantic Coast Conference and the third unanimous Associated Press All-American in University of Virginia history; and

WHEREAS, Chris Long was among the finalists for the Rotary Lombardi Award as the nation's outstanding lineman, the Bronko Nagurski Trophy as the nation's outstanding defensive player, the Ted Hendricks Defensive End of the Year Award, the Ronnie Lott Trophy as outstanding college defensive player of the year who has had the biggest impact on his team both on and off the field, and a semifinalist for the Bednarik Award as the nation's outstanding defensive player; and

WHEREAS, Chris Long was honored with the Dudley Award sponsored by the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, which is given annually to the top player in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Chris Long's # 91 jersey was retired on November 24, 2007, prior to his final home appearance against state rival Virginia Tech, and during the game he made six tackles and two sacks; and

WHEREAS, Chris Long has been an inspiration to his teammates and his fellow students at the University of Virginia and a thrill to watch on the field by college football fans across the Commonwealth and the nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend and congratulate Chris Long on his brilliant college football career with the University of Virginia Cavaliers; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Chris Long as an expression of the General Assembly's appreciation of his extraordinary talents and best wishes for continued success in the future.

INTRODUCED

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