

2008 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 384

Offered February 12, 2008

Commending the Western Albemarle High School field hockey team.

Patrons—Toscano, Abbitt, Bell and Landes

WHEREAS, the Western Albemarle High School field hockey team won the Virginia High School League (VHSL) Group A/AA state championship in a riveting game on November 10, 2007; and

WHEREAS, the Western Albemarle Warriors clinched the title in a 2 - 1 overtime victory over Grafton High School after defeating Chancellor High School, the 2006 state champs, 1 - 0 in the semifinals; and

WHEREAS, on the fourth day of the season, the Warriors set a goal to win the state championship, and their resolve never wavered; the team racked up an 18 - 1 - 1 record, with the one loss and one tie coming against powerhouse Group AAA teams, swept the Jefferson District regular season, and won the Jefferson District and Region II tournaments; and

WHEREAS, Grafton dominated possession the first 30 minutes of the championship game and grabbed a 1 - 0 lead with 6:25 left in the first half, but the Warriors regrouped at halftime when Coach Julie Merchant reminded them to pick up the intensity and play with heart; and

WHEREAS, Western Albemarle earned two short corners in the first five minutes of the second half and tied the game on the second short corner when Jordan Lynn slapped a shot past the Grafton goalie; and

WHEREAS, neither team could score again in regulation so the state final went into overtime; at the very end of the overtime period, Western Albemarle's L.P. Desch took a shot that was stopped, but the rebound rolled toward Effie Nicholaou who punched it in for the win; and

WHEREAS, the triumphant performance of the 2007 Western Albemarle Warriors is a tribute to the talent, commitment, and perseverance of the players; the leadership of Head Coach Julie Merchant and her staff; and the support of the parents, students, and faculty of Western Albemarle High School; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend and congratulate the Warriors of Western Albemarle High School on their first VHSL Group A/AA state field hockey championship; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Head Coach Julie Merchant as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the championship season of the 2007 Western Albemarle High School field hockey team.

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