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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 763

Offered January 19, 2009

*Commending Virginia's Olympic athletes of the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing.*

Patrons—Vanderhye, Abbitt, Albo, Alexander, Amundson, Armstrong, BaCote, Barlow, Bouchard, Bowling, Brink, Bulova, Byron, Caputo, Cline, Cole, Dance, Ebbin, Eisenberg, Englin, Fralin, Gear, Gilbert, Griffith, Hall, Howell, A.T., Howell, W.J., Hugo, Hull, Joannou, Johnson, Kilgore, Knight, Lewis, Loupassi, Marsden, Massie, Mathieson, May, McClellan, McQuinn, Melvin, Miller, J.H., Miller, P.J., Morgan, Morrissey, Nichols, Nixon, Nutter, O'Bannon, Oder, Phillips, Poindexter, Poisson, Pollard, Putney, Rust, Saxman, Scott, J.M., Shannon, Sherwood, Shuler, Sickles, Spruill, Toscano, Tyler, Valentine, Ward, Ware, O., Ware, R.L. and Watts; Senator: Herring

WHEREAS, fourteen outstanding Virginia athletes were members of the United States Olympic Team at the 2008 Summer Olympic Games, officially known as the Games of the XXIX Olympiad, in Beijing, People's Republic of China, held from August 8 to August 24, 2008; and

WHEREAS, Queen Quedith Harrison of Richmond, a student at Virginia Tech, competed in Beijing as a member of the USA track and field team in the women's 400-meter hurdles; and

WHEREAS, Angela Hucles of Virginia Beach, a graduate of the University of Virginia, was a midfielder for the USA women's soccer team that won a gold medal in Beijing; and

WHEREAS, Giuseppe Lanzone of Annandale, who was born in Peru and moved to Virginia and attended McLean High School, competed in the men's four in Beijing as a member of the USA rowing team; and

WHEREAS, Christine Marshall of Newport News, a student at Texas A & M, won a bronze medal in Beijing for her effort in the women's 800-meter freestyle relay as a member of the USA swimming team; and

WHEREAS, Lashawn Merritt of Portsmouth, a student and track standout at East Carolina University and Old Dominion University, won two gold medals in Beijing in the 400-meter and the 4 x 400-meter relay as a member of the USA track and field team; and

WHEREAS, Caroline Nichols of Virginia Beach, a graduate of Salem High School and a student at Old Dominion University, competed in Beijing as a member of the USA field hockey team; and

WHEREAS, David O'Connor of The Plains, a gold medal winner in 2000 as a member of the USA equestrian team, coached the Canadian equestrian team in Beijing; and

WHEREAS, Karen O'Connor of The Plains, a four-time Olympian, competed in Beijing as a member of the USA equestrian team; and

WHEREAS, Reid Priddy of Richmond, who made his debut in the Athens Olympics, won a gold medal in Beijing as a member of the USA volleyball team; and

WHEREAS, Lindsay Shoop of Charlottesville, a graduate of the University of Virginia, won a gold medal in Beijing as a member of the Women's Eight as part of the US Rowing Team; and

WHEREAS, Justin Edward Spring of Burke, a veteran gymnast and coach at the University of Illinois, won a bronze medal in the team competition in Beijing as a member of the USA gymnastics team; and

WHEREAS, Sam Stitt of McLean, a McLean High School graduate, made his Olympic debut in Beijing as a member of the men's quadruple sculls on the USA rowing team; and

WHEREAS, David Walters of Yorktown, a graduate of Tabb High School and a student at the University of Texas, won a gold medal in Beijing for his performance in the men's 800-meter freestyle relay as a member of the USA swimming team; and

WHEREAS, Kate Ziegler of Great Falls, a Bishop O'Connell High School graduate and student at George Mason University, competed in Beijing in the women's 400-meter and 800-meter freestyle as a member of the USA swimming team; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Virginia are extremely proud of our Olympians for their personal sacrifice and dedication to their sports, their many accomplishments as athletes, and their excellence as goodwill ambassadors of the Commonwealth and the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend and congratulate Virginia's Olympic athletes on their exciting and stellar performances at the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare copies of this resolution for presentation to Olympians Queen Quedith Harrison, Angela Hucles, Giuseppe Lanzone, Christine Marshall, Lashawn Merritt, Caroline Nichols, David O'Connor, Karen O'Connor, Reid Priddy, Lindsay Shoop, Justin Edward Spring, Sam Stitt, David Walters, and Kate Ziegler as an expression of the

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- 53** General Assembly's admiration for their outstanding achievements at the Games of the XXIX Olympiad  
**54** and best wishes for continued success in all their future endeavors.