

2012 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 306

Offered February 2, 2012

Commending Karen Dickerson.

Patrons—Watts; Senator: Marsden

WHEREAS, Karen Dickerson of Springfield, one of nine Virginia athletes who competed at the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games, captured gold medals in the 10,000-meter race and the half-marathon at the international competition; and

WHEREAS, over 7,500 athletes traveled to the historic city of Athens, Greece, to participate in the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games held June 25 - July 4, 2011; and

WHEREAS, Karen Dickerson, a graduate of Edison High School, began running in middle school and has been on the go ever since, competing in track, cross-country skiing, and biking over the years; and

WHEREAS, a remarkable athlete, Karen Dickerson participated in the Marine Corps Marathon and finished in the top 10 percent of female runners in the 2007 Boston Marathon, completing the race with an impressive time of 3 hours, 24 minutes; and

WHEREAS, Karen Dickerson has participated in Special Olympics for several years, traveling to Ireland and China for World Summer Games and meeting fellow athletes from around the world; and

WHEREAS, at the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games, Karen Dickerson easily outpaced her competitors to bring home gold in the 10,000-meter race and the half-marathon, demonstrating once again to the world her strong spirit and incredible endurance; and

WHEREAS, a talented track and field athlete and inspiring role model, Karen Dickerson proudly represented Springfield, the Commonwealth, and the nation at the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend and congratulate Karen Dickerson on her outstanding Special Olympics track and field career and her exemplary performance in Athens, Greece, at the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Karen Dickerson as an expression of the General Assembly's appreciation for her dedication to the Special Olympics, her fellow athletes, and the sport of track and field.

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