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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 397

Offered February 16, 2012

Commending Eugene J. Coleman III.

Patrons—Surovell, Albo, Bulova, Comstock, Englin, Filler-Corn, Hugo, Keam, Kory, LeMunyon, Lopez, Plum, Rust, Scott, J.M., Sickles and Watts; Senators: Barker, Ebbin, Favola, Herring, Howell, Marsden, Petersen, Puller and Saslaw

WHEREAS, Eugene J. Coleman III, an outstanding senior at Mount Vernon High School, ably represents the students of Fairfax County Public Schools on the Fairfax County School Board; and

WHEREAS, the Student Advisory Council, composed of four students from each of Fairfax County's 26 high schools, appointed Eugene "E.J." Coleman to the Fairfax County School Board after he was selected by his peers in an election between several talented candidates from 26 Fairfax County high schools for the nonvoting one-year position; and

WHEREAS, as the student representative on the Fairfax County School Board, E.J. Coleman is tasked with being the voice of 175,296 students and helping to manage 13,890 teachers, 2,335 instructional assistants, and a \$1.6 billion budget including \$250 million of State Basic Aid revenue and \$50 million of federal revenue; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, E.J. Coleman has worked to help all students; he has worked on programs to close the achievement gap, restoration of honors courses, elimination of athletic fees, and changes to school discipline processes; and

WHEREAS, E.J. Coleman is the first student representative from one of Fairfax County's most diverse high schools and has brought a broad and diverse range of perspectives to the student representative role and has been an example for other students at Fairfax County's most diverse and needy schools; and

WHEREAS, an exemplary student, E.J. Coleman is enrolled in the International Baccalaureate program and has maintained a 3.98 GPA while remaining actively involved in school activities and serving in the Marine Corps JROTC as Battalion Commander; and

WHEREAS, an extremely accomplished young man, E.J. Coleman has served as class president and as a member of the Mount Vernon debate team, Men of Vision and Purpose program, National Honor Society, Black Student Achievement Council, National Society of High School Scholars, and is a licensed glider pilot; and

WHEREAS, E.J. Coleman founded the Mount Vernon High School Glee Club as a sophomore, was selected as a varsity cross-country runner, and served as Junior Class President while taking a full load of International Baccalaureate Classes; and

WHEREAS, a four-year member of the Marine Corps JROTC, E.J. Coleman was the recipient of the prestigious Legion of Valor Bronze Cross for Achievement for his outstanding academic record, extraordinary leadership, and participation in school activities and community service; and

WHEREAS, E.J. Coleman represented Mount Vernon High School at the Hugh O'Brien Youth (HOBY) Leadership seminar, was one of six finalists considered to represent Virginia at HOBY's World Leadership Congress, served as Governor of Boys State Virginia, served as a Young Leader with the Amundson Institute, and was selected for the West Point Summer Leaders Seminar; and

WHEREAS, E.J. Coleman, who plans to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point in the fall, has been a faithful and dedicated student representative on the Fairfax County School Board, an outstanding representative of Mount Vernon High School, and an exemplary citizen of the greater Mount Vernon Community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend Eugene J. Coleman III on his appointment and distinguished service as the student representative to the Fairfax County School Board; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Eugene J. Coleman III as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for his many accomplishments and commitment to serving his fellow students.

INTRODUCED

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