

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 305

Commending Kellie Wells.

Agreed to by the Senate, January 17, 2013
Agreed to by the House of Delegates, January 25, 2013

WHEREAS, Kellie Wells, a 2006 alumna of Hampton University, triumphed at the Games of the XXX Olympiad held in London in 2012 by capturing a bronze medal in the 100-meter hurdles; and

WHEREAS, as a young woman, Kellie Wells turned to the track as she faced sexual abuse and assault at home and discovered not only a refuge but also an amazing strength and speed that would lead to incredible and inspiring victories; and

WHEREAS, a stand-out in high school, Kellie Wells attended Hampton University, where she led the school to indoor and outdoor Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference championships in each of her four years and earned National Collegiate Athletic Association All-America and Academic All-America honors; and

WHEREAS, at the 2008 United States Olympic Trials, Kellie Wells tore her hamstring in the semifinals, but battled back to place second at the 2010 USA Track and Field outdoor championships and become the 2011 USA Track and Field indoor and outdoor champion; and

WHEREAS, Kellie Wells' fierce determination and grueling training schedule earned her a place at the 2012 London Olympics, where she lined up alongside the fastest hurdlers from around the world; and

WHEREAS, years of rigorous practice and mental focus paid off as Kellie Wells cleared the hurdles in just 12.48 seconds to capture the bronze medal, becoming the second graduate of a historically black college or university and the first Hamptonian from the United States to win a medal at the 2012 London Olympics; and

WHEREAS, a role model on the track and off, Kellie Wells has inspired countless young women to realize the power they have over their own lives, overcome their obstacles, and pursue their dreams with a strong spirit; and

WHEREAS, a woman of extraordinary talent, speed, and character, Kellie Wells has brought great honor to Hampton University, the Commonwealth, and the nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Kellie Wells on winning a bronze medal in the 100-meter hurdles at the Games of the XXX Olympiad held in London in 2012; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Kellie Wells as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and admiration for her skill, determination, and grace.