

# 2014 SPECIAL SESSION I

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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5140

Offered June 26, 2014

*Celebrating the life of Ralph Cummins.*

Patron—Chafin

WHEREAS, Ralph Cummins, a dedicated educator and record-breaking high school athletics coach who served as a leader and mentor to countless young men and women in the Clintwood community, died on June 23, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Cummins began his career as a teacher and coach at Clintwood High School in 1950; he served as the girls' basketball coach and an assistant football coach before becoming the football head coach in 1953; and

WHEREAS, a focused and dedicated leader, Ralph Cummins helped his teams acquire the best equipment and attended coaching clinics around the country; with his guidance and support, the Clintwood High School football team achieved a historic 41 - 3 - 6 record from 1955 to 1959; and

WHEREAS, under Ralph Cummins' leadership, the Clintwood High School football team earned Virginia High School League state titles in 1974, 1975, and 1978 and won 64 consecutive games in that period; he also led the girls' basketball team to state championships in 1985 and 1989; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Cummins retired as football coach in 1987 with an impressive 271 wins and 10 undefeated seasons, making him one of the top high school football coaches in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Cummins earned numerous awards and accolades, including regional and national coach of the year awards, and he was inducted into four sports halls of fame; he also served as a past president of state and national high school coaches associations; and

WHEREAS, working to better the quality of life for his fellow residents, Ralph Cummins served as a member of the Clintwood Kiwanis Club, and he enjoyed fellowship and worship with the community at Clintwood Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Cummins will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his wife, Carolyn, and numerous other family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note with great sadness the loss of Ralph Cummins, a respected educator, athletics coach, and a pillar of the Clintwood community; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Ralph Cummins as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

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