

15103933D

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 766

Offered February 5, 2015

Commending Paul Hatcher.

Patrons—Bell, Richard P. and Landes; Senator: Hanger

WHEREAS, Paul Hatcher, the accomplished former basketball coach of Robert E. Lee High School in Staunton, was inducted into the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame in 2015 for his record-setting career as a coach; and

WHEREAS, a native of Bassett, Paul Hatcher graduated from Bridgewater College, where he was a four-year starter and captain of the basketball team; two years after graduation, he was hired as coach of the Robert E. Lee High School boys' basketball team; and

WHEREAS, from 1968 to 2011, Paul Hatcher recorded 897 victories in more than 1,000 games, a win rate of 84 percent, and led his teams to state championships in 1984, 1990, 2004, and 2005; he holds the record for most wins by a basketball coach in the Virginia High School League (VHSL) history; and

WHEREAS, in his 43-year career as coach, Paul Hatcher's teams never endured a losing season and finished 29 seasons with 20 or more victories; from 2003 to 2006, the Robert E. Lee High School boys' basketball team recorded 85 consecutive victories; and

WHEREAS, Paul Hatcher was named VHSL Coach of the Year 11 times and served as a VHSL All-Star Game coach seven times; he has been inducted into the Bridgewater College Hall of Fame, the Robert E. Lee High School Hall of Fame, the Virginia High School Hall of Fame, and the National High School Athletic Coaches Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Paul Hatcher inspired the young athletes of Robert E. Lee High School to achieve levels of excellence unsurpassed by any other high school basketball team in the Commonwealth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Paul Hatcher on his induction into the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Paul Hatcher as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for his exceptional achievements as a coach and dedicated leadership of and service to the youth of the Staunton community.

INTRODUCED

HJ766