

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 310

Commending The Steward School baseball team.

Agreed to by the Senate, January 29, 2015
 Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 6, 2015

WHEREAS, The Steward School baseball team won its first state championship in 2014, capping an outstanding season by capturing the Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association Division II state championship; and

WHEREAS, the school in Henrico County has fielded a baseball team for only 10 years; the Steward Spartans defeated a talented squad from the Miller School of Albemarle 2-0 in the title game, which was played on May 18, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Steward Spartans had a young roster in 2014 as seven starting players had graduated the previous spring; however, that did not deter Coach Bruce Secrest or the team, which ended the season with an 18-5 record; and

WHEREAS, the members of The Steward School baseball team realized that they had to work together as a group—not as individuals—to achieve their best; to reach that goal, the group came up with the idea of "stepping into the circle"—meaning that a player was wholly committed to the team; and

WHEREAS, The Steward School baseball players began "stepping into the circle" one by one, signifying a commitment to compete for the good of the team; the player signed his name inside a circle that was drawn on a sheet of paper, which was taken to all games; and

WHEREAS, during the three-game state tournament, which was held at Shepherd Stadium in Colonial Heights, Steward pitcher Nic Enright was on the mound for 14 innings and did not give up a single run; and

WHEREAS, Nic Enright pitched seven shut-out innings for Steward; the junior allowed two hits and struck out 10 opponents, saying later that more than one-third of his pitches were sliders, which was confusing to the Miller School's batters; and

WHEREAS, Steward's two runs came when Dan McCarthy hit a fastball down the left field line, permitting Nic Enright to score from first base; Dan McCarthy later scored when the bases were loaded and Craig McLane was hit by a pitch; and

WHEREAS, The Steward School baseball team entered the mid-May tournament on a high note; the team had been undefeated since April 12, and after losing three of the first four games of the 2014 season, became stronger and more confident throughout the spring; and

WHEREAS, the support of the students, staff, and The Steward School community contributed to a winning season for the 2014 baseball team, whose members included Nic Enright, Craig McLane, Drew Barker, Ryan Doggett, Charlie Vaughan, Julian Wolz, BK Stancil, Sean Highfill, Nico Martinez, Dan McCarthy, Josiah Armstrong, Jay Charity, Jonathan Beigel, Zach Beigel, Theron Powell, Jackson Wellons, John Keefe, and Walker Poling; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend The Steward School baseball team for winning the 2014 Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association Division II state championship; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Bruce Secrest, head coach of The Steward School baseball team, as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations on an outstanding season.

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