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SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 119

Offered January 24, 2017

Commending the Lebanon High School softball team.

Patron—Chafin

WHEREAS, the Lebanon High School softball team won the Virginia High School League Group 2A state championship in June 2016, capping a storybook season and bringing home the first state softball trophy in school history; and

WHEREAS, the Lebanon High School Pioneers defeated the Central High School Falcons of Woodstock by a margin of 2-1 in a 16-inning marathon game that will be written about in history books; and

WHEREAS, the Lebanon High School softball team reached the state championship game after a 3-1 shocking upset of two-time defending state champion Page County High School in the Virginia High School League (VHSL) Group 2A state semifinals; and

WHEREAS, the Central Falcons took a 1-0 lead in the fourth inning of the championship game after back-to-back doubles; the Lebanon Pioneers answered back in the sixth inning when Taylor Woodlief hit a double to the wall to score Monica Parrott; and

WHEREAS, pitching and defense took over from there as Lebanon Pioneers pitcher Morgan Hamm settled into a groove, supported by the unshakable defense of center fielder Monica Parrott, shortstop Haley Justus, and left fielder Madison Varney; and

WHEREAS, after more than three hours of intense heat and pressure, Lebanon Pioneers batter Taylor Woodlief smacked the game-winning home run over the center field wall in the 16th inning, ending the longest state tournament game in VHSL softball history; and

WHEREAS, Taylor Woodlief's walk-off home run prompted a mob of jubilant Lebanon High School players and fans to rush the field in a moment of pure joy that will not soon be forgotten by all of those who participated in and watched the record-breaking game; and

WHEREAS, Lebanon Pioneers pitcher Morgan Hamm finished the game with 12 strikeouts and only two walks, and Taylor Woodlief led the offense with five hits, including two doubles and a walk-off home run; and

WHEREAS, all members of the Lebanon High School softball team, which had just three seniors, demonstrated determination and perseverance and contributed to the state championship victory by working hard throughout the season to build solid skills; and

WHEREAS, Shelia Adams, the veteran coach of the Lebanon High School softball team and a pioneer in Southwest Virginia softball, instilled confidence in her players and implored the team to keep digging deep as the grueling championship game tested the Pioneers' endurance; and

WHEREAS, Lebanon High School softball Coach Shelia Adams began coaching the Pioneers in 1994, and, in 2016, she announced she would retire and go out on top with her second career state championship; and

WHEREAS, the Lebanon Pioneers' 19-8 season was one for the ages: the team finished third in the Clinch Mountain Conference regular-season standings, was runner-up in the conference tournament, took second place in the regional tournament, but still ended up winning the state title; and

WHEREAS, Lebanon High School's improbable state softball championship run was made possible by the tremendous unwavering support of the team's dedicated fans and the sacrifices of their loving families; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate of Virginia, That the Lebanon High School softball team hereby be commended on their sensational victory in the Virginia High School League Group 2A state championship in June 2016; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Shelia Adams, head coach of the Lebanon High School softball team, as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's admiration for the team's amazing 2016 season and first state softball title in school history.

INTRODUCED

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