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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 203

Offered February 4, 2018

Commending the Braddock Road Youth Club Travel Soccer 99 Elite Academy team.

Patron—Bulova

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WHEREAS, the Braddock Road Youth Club Travel Soccer 99 Elite Academy team won the 18U Boys US Youth Soccer national championship on July 30, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the US Youth Soccer national championship is the premier youth soccer event in the nation, with the top 88 youth soccer teams showcasing their skills; the Braddock Road Youth Club (BRYC) 99 Elite Academy team faced many talented competitors throughout the tournament and defeated a team from Maryland in the semi-finals to advance to the national championship game; and

WHEREAS, in the championship final, the BRYC 99 Elite Academy team defeated a team from California 4 - 1, with Vinicius Almeida finding the back of the net twice early in the game; Julien Reininger and Kahlil Dover added goals in the 66th minute and the 90th minute; and

WHEREAS, the BRYC 99 Elite Academy backline—Alexander Barakat, Adam Laundree, Jack Rawlins, Ryan Teuschl, and Jared Valdes—only conceded five goals throughout the US Youth Soccer national championship series; and

WHEREAS, Vinicius Almeida won the 18U Boys 2017 Golden Ball Award and was named to the 2017 national championship Best 11, along with Ryan Moore; goalkeeper Alexander Barakat won the 18U Boys 2017 Golden Glove Award; and

WHÉREAS, earlier in the season, the BRYC 99 Elite Academy won the 2016 - 2017 Virginia Youth Soccer Association 18U state championship and represented the Commonwealth at the US Youth Soccer Region 1 championships; and

WHEREAS, the successful season is a testament to the hard work of all the athletes on the BRYC 99 Elite Academy team, the leadership and guidance of coaches and staff, and the enthusiastic support of family members, friends, and fans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Braddock Road Youth Club Travel Soccer 99 Elite Academy team on winning the 18U Boys US Youth Soccer national championship; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Brian Welsh, head coach of the Braddock Road Youth Club Travel Soccer 99 Elite Academy team, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the team's achievements and best wishes for the future.