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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 316

Offered February 21, 2018

Commending the Virginia State University men's indoor track and field team.

Patrons—Aird; Senator: Dance

WHEREAS, the Virginia State University men's indoor track and field team were co-winners of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association's Indoor Track and Field Championship held February 11 - 12, 2018, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia State University Trojans displayed outstanding skill and stamina during the finals and made numerous visits to the awards platform; they finished the 12-team competition with a total score of 175.5 and were named co-champions with Saint Augustine's University; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia State Trojans made an excellent showing in the championship's track events; the quartet of Tyron Evans, Nickolas Stackfield, Tyreece Huff, and Charles Salley claimed first place in the distance medley relay with a time of 10:56:12, and Huff finished second in the mile run; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia State Trojans' other strong track performers included Allen Blair, who posted two second place finishes in the 60-meter and 200-meter races; Jahvante Marcelle, who claimed third place in the 60-meter hurdles; and the team of Steven Murdock, Allen Blair, Milton Coleman-Sledge, and Decarai Clark, who finished third in the 4x400 relay; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia State Trojans were also dominant in the championship's field events; Dajawn Williams secured first place in the pole vault with a vault of 10 feet, 11.75 inches, while teammates Jahvante Marcelle, Jacob Beville, and Osafi Fordyce rounded out the top four places; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia State Trojans' other first place field event finishes came courtesy of Allen Blair, who leapt 24 feet, one inch to win the long jump, and Brandon Slade, who took first in the shot put with a distance of 48 feet, six inches; and

WHEREAS, Jahvante Marcelle and Dajawn Williams earned second and third place respectively in the heptathlon for the Virginia State Trojans, and Williams and Andre Jackson shared third place in the high jump; and

WHEREAS, the championship win was the Virginia State Trojans' first indoor track and field title since 1981; in addition, team member Dajawn Williams was named the 2018 championship MVP; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia State Trojans' championship victory is a tribute to the skill and dedication of all its talented student-athletes, the excellent guidance of coaches and staff, and the passionate support of family members, friends, and the entire Virginia State University community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Virginia State University men's indoor track and field team on being named co-winners of the 2018 Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association Indoor Track and Field Championship; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Wilbert Johnson, head coach of the Virginia State University men's indoor track and field team, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the team's remarkable season and best wishes for continued success.

INTRODUCED

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