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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 526

Offered March 5, 2018

*Commending Heritage High School.*

Patrons—Price, Mullin and Yancey; Senators: Locke and Mason

WHEREAS, Heritage High School in Newport News had a banner 2016 - 2017 school year, winning several athletic championships as well as awards for excellence in technology, science, and robotics; and

WHEREAS, as the home of a Governor's STEM Academy, Heritage High School received several honors related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, including a Virginia STAR Best Practice Award for a program that refurbishes surplus computer hardware to donate to students and families in need; and

WHEREAS, the 2017 school year also saw Heritage High School's Governor's STEM Academy win a "Programs That Work" award from the Virginia Mathematics and Science Coalition; the accolade recognized STEMulating Minds Summer Enrichment, a three-week summer program that helps rising ninth-graders hone their STEM skills through interactive activities; and

WHEREAS, in May 2017, Heritage High School was one of seven schools in the Commonwealth recognized by Governor Terence R. McAuliffe as a winner of the NSA Day of Cyber challenge, an online program that allowed students to explore the skills and tools used by National Security Agency cyber professionals; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Heritage High School was selected as a finalist in NASA's Cubes in Space program, won first place in Newport News Shipbuilding's annual Egg Drop Engineering Competition, and captured titles in two FIRST Robotics Competition events; and

WHEREAS, Heritage High School also had an excellent year of competition in Virginia High School League sports, including a Conference 18 championship for the girls' basketball team; and

WHEREAS, in boys' outdoor track and field, Heritage High School athletes Qhiyal Townes and Tim Payne had stellar individual seasons; Townes won the 4A East region and the 4A state championship in the 100-meter dash, while Payne secured the 4A state title in the 110-meter hurdles as well as the 110-meter hurdles national championship at the Amateur Athletic Union's 2017 Junior Olympic Games; and

WHEREAS, Heritage High School's stellar accomplishments during the 2016 - 2017 school year are a testament to the hard work and dedication of all its students, faculty members, staff, and administrators; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Heritage High School on its award-winning 2016 - 2017 school year; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Shameka N. Gerald, principal of Heritage High School, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the school's ongoing commitment to excellence and best wishes for continued success.

INTRODUCED

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