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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 341

Offered March 3, 2022

*Commending the Oscar F. Smith High School football team.*

Patrons—Hayes, Clark, Convirs-Fowler, Hope, Jenkins, Reid and Williams; Senators: Ebbin, Edwards and Ruff

WHEREAS, the Oscar F. Smith High School football team of Chesapeake made history by winning two Virginia High School League Class 6 state championship titles in the same calendar year in 2021; and

WHEREAS, in May 2021, the Oscar F. Smith High School Tigers defeated the South County High School Stallions of Lorton by a score of 62-21, capping off a perfect 9-0 record in a season that was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Oscar Smith Tigers' decisive victory was the program's first state championship since 2011 and a redemptive finish after the team was narrowly defeated by the South County Stallions in the 2019 state final; and

WHEREAS, despite giving up a touchdown during the South County Stallions' first possession of the game, the Oscar Smith Tigers quickly rallied and put up 28 points in the first eight minutes of competition; and

WHEREAS, the Oscar Smith Tigers were carried by an outstanding defense, which tallied five interceptions, and a standout performance by quarterback Ethan Vasko, who rushed for three touchdowns and passed for two; and

WHEREAS, the Oscar Smith Tigers resumed their winning ways in the fall of 2021 and finished a 13-1 campaign as the first team from South Hampton Roads to win back-to-back state championships since 1946 and the first team ever to do so in the same year; and

WHEREAS, in December 2021, the Oscar Smith Tigers defeated a talented team from Madison High School by a score of 42-17; and

WHEREAS, although the Madison Warhawks scored early in the game, the Oscar Smith Tigers reclaimed the lead in the second quarter with two touchdowns from Ethan Vasko to wide receiver Amonte Jones; and

WHEREAS, senior running back Kevon King finished the game with 290 yards on the ground and added three more touchdowns for the Oscar Smith Tigers, who never relinquished the lead in the second half; and

WHEREAS, the two successful seasons are a tribute to the hard work and determination of all the student-athletes, the leadership and guidance of the coaches and staff, and the passionate support of the entire Oscar Smith High School community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Oscar F. Smith High School football team on winning two consecutive Virginia High School League Class 6 state championships in the same year; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Chris Scott, head coach of the Oscar F. Smith High School football team, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the team's historic achievements.