## **1996 SESSION**

## **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 287**

Commending the Virginia Tech men's basketball team.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, January 26, 1996 Agreed to by the Senate, February 1, 1996

WHEREAS, on March 29, 1995, the men's basketball team from Virginia Tech captured the National Invitation Tournament (NIT) at Madison Square Garden in New York City; and

WHEREAS, by defeating Marquette University, 65-64 in overtime, the Hokies won their second NIT crown, the first coming in 1973; and

WHEREAS, the Hokies, led by tournament Most Valuable Player Shawn Smith, relied on tough defense and team poise to rally from a 10-point deficit, force overtime, and win the title on two pressure-packed free throws with less than a second remaining in the game; and

WHEREAS, Coach Bill Foster's team set a school record by finishing the season with 25 victories and brought a national title home to Blacksburg, thus setting the stage for an exciting 1995-96 basketball season; and

WHEREAS, the success of the Virginia Tech men's basketball team stands as a tribute to the dedication of the coaching staff and to the skill, athleticism and teamwork of Ace Custis, Shawn Good, Myron Guillory, David Jackson, Travis Jackson, Kelly Mann, Brandon Price, Shawn Smith and Damon Watlington; and

WHEREAS, the Hokies proved themselves worthy champions and fine representatives of their school and the Commonwealth while appearing on national television several times during the tournament; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly salute the Hokies from Virginia Tech on their victorious performance in the 1995 National Invitation Tournament; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Head Coach Bill Foster as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and best wishes for 1996.