

996198724

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 528

Offered February 3, 1999

Commending John Thompson.

Patrons—Potts, Barry, Bolling, Chichester, Colgan, Couric, Edwards, Forbes, Gartlan, Hanger, Hawkins, Holland, Houck, Howell, Lambert, Lucas, Marsh, Martin, Marye, Maxwell, Miller, K.G., Miller, Y.B., Mims, Newman, Norment, Puckett, Quayle, Reynolds, Saslaw, Schrock, Stolle, Stosch, Ticer, Trumbo, Walker, Wampler, Watkins, Whipple, Williams and Woods; Delegates: Abbitt, Albo, Almand, Armstrong, Baker, Barlow, Baskerville, Behm, Bennett, Black, Blevins, Bloxom, Brink, Bryant, Byron, Callahan, Cantor, Christian, Clement, Councill, Cox, Cranwell, Crittenden, Croshaw, Darner, Davies, Davis, Day, DeBoer, Deeds, Devolites, Diamonstein, Dickinson, Dillard, Drake, Dudley, Grayson, Griffith, Guest, Hall, Hamilton, Hargrove, Harris, Howell, Hull, Ingram, Jackson, Joannou, Johnson, Jones, D.C., Jones, J.C., Jones, S.C., Katzen, Keating, Kilgore, Landes, Marshall, May, McClure, McDonnell, McEachin, McQuigg, Melvin, Moran, Morgan, Moss, Murphy, Nixon, O'Brien, Orrock, Parrish, Phillips, Plum, Puller, Purkey, Putney, Reid, Rhodes, Robinson, Rollison, Ruff, Rust, Scott, Sherwood, Shuler, Spruill, Stump, Tata, Tate, Thomas, Van Landingham, Van Yahres, Wagner, Wardrup, Ware, Watts, Weatherholtz, Wilkins, Williams and Woodrum

WHEREAS, John Thompson, a Virginia resident and one of the most successful and highly respected college basketball coaches in the nation, retired as head basketball coach at Georgetown University; and

WHEREAS, since arriving at Georgetown University in 1972, Coach Thompson has led the Hoyas to 596 victories, perennial NCAA tournament appearances, and the 1984 NCAA Division 1 men's basketball championship; and

WHEREAS, responsible for putting Georgetown on the basketball map, John Thompson has led the Hoyas to 24 consecutive post-season appearances, 20 NCAA tournament appearances, and three trips to the NCAA Final Four; and

WHEREAS, a fine player himself, John Thompson led his Washington, D.C. high school team to two city championships and led his Providence College team to the NIT championship; and

WHEREAS, John Thompson is nationally known for his emphasis on his players' academic success, and 98 percent of his Georgetown basketball players who stayed for at least four years at the university earned their degrees; and

WHEREAS, John Thompson's players have also achieved professional basketball success, with 27 Hoyas, including Virginians Alonzo Mourning and Allen Iverson, being drafted by the National Basketball Association; and

WHEREAS, a prominent figure in national and international basketball circles, John Thompson was an assistant coach of the 1976 U.S. Olympic basketball team and was head coach of the 1988 team in Seoul, South Korea; and

WHEREAS, a founding member of the Black Coaches Association, John Thompson is a past president of the National Association of Basketball Coaches, has been named Big East Conference Coach of the Year three times, and has been named Coach of the Year by four other national organizations; and

WHEREAS, Coach Thompson of Georgetown University participated in two of the most historic games in NCAA basketball history: the legendary Georgetown-Virginia game on December 10, 1982, featuring the battle of the seven-footers (Ralph Sampson of Virginia and Patrick Ewing of Georgetown) and the Georgetown-LSU game at the Louisiana Superdome on January 28, 1989, which attracted 66,144, the largest crowd in the history of college basketball — both games were created by Coach Thompson's longtime friend, Senator H. Russell Potts, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, active in the Washington, D.C., community, John Thompson established Georgetown's "Kids and Cops" program, which annually gives away 10,000 tickets to Hoya basketball games; and

WHEREAS, a legendary coach and a major force in collegiate athletics, John Thompson compiled an unparalleled record of achievement at Georgetown University; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Coach John Thompson on the completion of an outstanding career; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to John Thompson as an expression of the General Assembly's great respect for his accomplishments.

INTRODUCED

SJS28