

## 2007 SESSION

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### SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 319

Offered January 10, 2007

Prefiled December 11, 2006

*Commending Justin Brooks Verlander.*

Patrons—Stosch, Chichester and Watkins

WHEREAS, Detroit Tigers pitcher and Goochland County native Justin Brooks Verlander was named American League Baseball Rookie of the Year on November 13, 2006; and

WHEREAS, born on February 20, 1983, Justin Verlander, the son of Kathy and Richard Verlander of Manakin-Sabot, was a standout high school athlete and a graduate of Goochland High School, Class of 2001; and

WHEREAS, during his college career, Justin Verlander pitched for the Old Dominion University (ODU) baseball team, received All-American honors three years in a row, and established a notable strikeout record of 427 in 335 and 2/3 innings; and

WHEREAS, Justin Verlander set an ODU single season record by recording 139 strikeouts in 2003, and later, the talented right-hander broke his own record, establishing a new Colonial Athletic Association record for ODU with 151 strikeouts in 2004; and

WHEREAS, rocketing toward star status, Justin Verlander became the Detroit Tigers first-round draft pick and the second overall selection in the 2004 Major League Baseball Amateur Draft, was signed in October 2004, and made his major league debut on July 4, 2005; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, Justin Verlander stymied American League hitters with his 100 mph fastball, an 88-92 mph curve ball, and a changeup that clocked 75-83 mph; and

WHEREAS, Justin Verlander's record, 17-9 with a 3.63 ERA in 30 starts, was invaluable in the Detroit Tigers' advance to the World Series for the first time since 1984, and he was voted the American League's Rookie of the Year by the Baseball Writers' Association of America; and

WHEREAS, a hometown hero to his fellow citizens and admiring fans in Goochland County and the Commonwealth, Justin Verlander is recognized for his outstanding achievements in his impressive first major league season with the Detroit Tigers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend and congratulate Justin Brooks Verlander as the 2006 American League Rookie of the Year; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Justin Brooks Verlander as an expression of the General Assembly's appreciation of his extraordinary talents and his dedication to the sport of baseball.

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