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Prefiled January 8, 2008 Commending the Turner Ashby High School baseball team.

Patron—Lohr and Saxman: Senator: Obenshain

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 151

Offered January 9, 2008

WHEREAS, the 2007 Turner Ashby High School baseball team capped a near-perfect season by winning the Virginia High School League Group AA state baseball championship, held at Radford University on June 9, 2007; and

WHEREAS, the Turner Ashby High School Knights (26 - 1) defeated the tough Hidden Valley High School Titans by a score of 6 - 4 to clinch their second consecutive Group AA state title; and

WHEREAS, with their 2007 victory, the Knights from Rockingham County have won six state baseball titles, breaking a tie with Bristol's Virginia High School for the most wins in Virginia High School League history; and

WHEREAS, a three-run home run in the fifth inning, which ended with the Knights scoring five runs, turned a 2 - 1 deficit into a 6 - 2 lead over the Titans; and

WHEREAS, the Knights endured a difficult battle with the Titans (18 - 11), the Region III champion, who fought back with two more runs in the final innings to climb within reach of the state title; and

WHEREAS, with the Knights protecting a two-run lead, Coach Ritchie Anderson and his determined players watched their teammate, senior pitching ace Andrew Armstrong, the team's outstanding Region II and Valley District Player of the Year, complete one of the toughest outings of his stellar high school career to claim the Group AA championship game; and

WHEREAS, talented and exemplary seniors Carl McIntyre, Josh Wright, Josh Tutwiler, and Brandon Craun, as well as hard-working juniors Daniel Bowman and Kyle Craun and all of the Knights' outstanding players, made valuable contributions in a tremendous team effort in the championship games and throughout the season; and

WHEREAS, the triumphant performance of the 2007 Knights is a tribute to the talent, dedication, and perseverance of the players; the leadership of Head Coach Ritchie Anderson and his staff; and the support of the students and faculty of Turner Ashby High School; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend and congratulate the Knights from Turner Ashby High School on their outstanding 2007 season; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Head Coach Ritchie Anderson as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the championship performance of the 2007 Turner Ashby High School baseball team.