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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 161

Offered February 5, 2008

Celebrating the life of George W. Quarles, Jr.

Patrons—Blevins, Lucas, Miller, Y.B. and Quayle; Delegates: Cosgrove, Howell, A.T., Joannou, Jones, S.C., Melvin and Spruill

WHEREAS, George W. Quarles, Jr., of Chesapeake, a beloved citizen and revered coach for the Chesapeake Public Schools, died on January 8, 2008; and

WHEREAS, George W. Quarles, Jr., was born on January 13, 1925, the son of George W. Quarles, Sr., and Eleanor Harris of Coatesville; attended Maggie L. Walker High School from 1941 to 1943; and though he dropped out of high school due to financial hardship, he later obtained a General Educational Development credential; and

WHEREAS, George Quarles served his country by enlisting in the United States Marine Corps, obtaining noncommissioned officer status, and served three years until honorably discharged in April 1946; and

WHEREAS, overcoming many obstacles, George Quarles, committed to receiving a higher education, earned a bachelor's degree from Tennessee State University in 1951; in the same year, he married his beloved Eloise Smith of Richmond; and

WHEREAS, known affectionately as Coach "Q," Coach Quarles began his stellar career in education in 1957 as a teacher and head coach of basketball and football at Crestwood High School in then Norfolk County, subsequently joined Oscar Smith High School as a teacher, head basketball coach, and assistant football coach in 1971, and soon became the school's legendary head football coach; and

WHEREAS, Coach Quarles received numerous awards and accolades during his years in coaching, and he was especially proud of being selected Chesapeake Public Schools' Teacher of the Year in 1985; he was inducted into the Virginia High School League Hall of Fame in 1990 and the Hampton Roads African American Sports Hall of Fame in 2002; and

WHEREAS, with a strong work ethic and a positive attitude, Coach Quarles was an excellent mentor to young people, especially young men, and he shared his stories and life lessons with his students, family, and extended family; and

WHEREAS, Coach Quarles was a faithful member of Saint James Episcopal Church and an active member of The Men of Saint James, served as a member of the church vestry and finance committee, and founded the Oscar Smith Fellowship of Christian Athletes; and

WHEREAS, George Quarles will be fondly remembered for his kind and generous nature and greatly missed by his devoted wife of 56 years, Eloise; his beloved children, Suzette and Michael; his many other loving relatives and extended family; his students, players, and fellow educators; and the citizens of Chesapeake; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly mourn the passing of a fine and outstanding Virginian, George W. Quarles, Jr.; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of George W. Quarles, Jr., as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

INTRODUCED

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