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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 338

Offered February 7, 2012

Commending the field crew of Louisa County High School.

Patrons—Farrell; Senators: Garrett and Reeves

WHEREAS, the football field at Louisa County High School—The Jungle—was chosen as the 2011 Schools and Parks Football Field of the Year by the Sports Turf Managers Association; and

WHEREAS, the hard work that led to the award started six years ago when the Louisa Lions' football field was renovated; a special Patriot Bermuda grass was planted because of its durability and resistance to wear; and

WHEREAS, over the years, the grounds crew for The Jungle has maintained the field at a high level, devoting 150 man-hours between home games to get the field ready; the warm-season specialty grass that was planted six years ago has stood up well, maintaining its color and playability; and

WHEREAS, the field crew for The Jungle at Louisa County High School consists of 13 students in an advanced turf class and three staff assistants, all under the supervision of field manager Mike Hopkins; and

WHEREAS, the crew and the turf faced perhaps their toughest challenges to date when, on August 23, 2011, Louisa County was the epicenter of a magnitude 5.8 earthquake and the high school closed because of damage; a few days after that, the remnants of Hurricane Irene dropped five inches of rain onto the field; and

WHEREAS, the field crew worked for hours on end to prepare the football field for the Louisa Lions home opener on September 2, 2011; they knew the game would be a rallying point for the exhausted and weary residents who were just beginning to rebuild; and

WHEREAS, the field was ready ahead of Game Day, but the night before the big game, The Jungle was vandalized, forcing the group to start over; The Jungle Turf Crew repainted, re-marked the lines, and dyed the field to hide graffiti, completing three days' work in 12 hours; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the field crew of Louisa County High School on having its football field, The Jungle, named the 2011 Schools and Parks Football Field of the Year; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Mike Hopkins, field crew manager for Louisa County High School, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration and congratulations for a job well done.