

2012 SPECIAL SESSION I

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5004

Offered March 26, 2012

Commending the Virginia Commonwealth University 2011-2012 men's basketball team.

Patrons—Marsh, McEachin, Watkins, Barker, Black, Blevins, Carrico, Colgan, Deeds, Ebbin, Edwards, Favola, Garrett, Hanger, Herring, Howell, Locke, Lucas, Marsden, Martin, McDougle, McWaters, Miller, J.C., Miller, Y.B., Newman, Norment, Northam, Obenshain, Petersen, Puckett, Puller, Reeves, Ruff, Saslaw, Smith, Stanley, Stosch, Stuart, Vogel and Wagner; Delegates: Albo, Alexander, BaCote, Bell, Richard P., Bell, Robert B., Brink, Bulova, Byron, Carr, Cline, Comstock, Cosgrove, Cox, J.A., Cox, M.K., Crockett-Stark, Dance, Dudenhefer, Farrell, Filler-Corn, Garrett, Gilbert, Habeeb, Head, Helsel, Herring, Hodges, Hope, Howell, A.T., Howell, W.J., Hugo, Iaquinto, Ingram, James, Joannou, Johnson, Jones, Keam, Knight, Landes, LeMunyon, Lewis, Lingamfelter, Lopez, Loupassi, May, McClellan, McQuinn, Minchew, Morefield, Morris, Morrissey, O'Bannon, O'Quinn, Orrock, Peace, Plum, Pogge, Purkey, Putney, Ransone, Robinson, Rust, Scott, E.T., Scott, J.M., Sherwood, Sickles, Stolle, Surovell, Torian, Tyler, Villanueva, Ward, Ware, R.L., Watts, Wilt, Wright and Yancey

WHEREAS, in 2012, the Virginia Commonwealth University men's basketball team won the Colonial Athletic Association Championship and an automatic bid to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Tournament; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Commonwealth University Rams basketball team made its second consecutive appearance in the NCAA Tournament, marking the first time in more than 25 years that the Rams played in back-to-back NCAA Tournaments; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2012, Virginia Commonwealth University was deemed the 12th seed in the Southeast Region and played the heavily favored 5th-seeded Wichita State in Portland, Oregon, on March 15, 2012, upsetting the Wichita State squad, 62-59, and winning an NCAA Tournament game for the second straight year; and

WHEREAS, although the Virginia Commonwealth University men's basketball team is the ninth-youngest team in the country, the Rams won a school record of 29 games during the 2011-2012 basketball season; and

WHEREAS, an NCAA record of 146 consecutive games started was set by Bradford Burgess, a senior and Richmond native, surpassing basketball legends Patrick Ewing and Danny Manning; and

WHEREAS, the student athletes and coaches of the Virginia Commonwealth University men's basketball team showed great resolve, resiliency, teamwork, and sportsmanship in their quest for the NCAA Division I title; and

WHEREAS, Head Coach Shaka Smart is highly commended for his exemplary leadership, sportsmanship, integrity, and commitment to Virginia Commonwealth University and his student athletes; and

WHEREAS, the members of the 2011-2012 Rams have continued to write new and exhilarating chapters in the history of Virginia Commonwealth University men's basketball; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Virginia Commonwealth University 2011-2012 men's basketball team on its capture of the 2012 Colonial Athletic Association Championship and its magnificent performance and remarkable journey to the NCAA Tournament for its second consecutive appearance; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Dr. Michael Rao, president of Virginia Commonwealth University, requesting that he further disseminate copies of this resolution to Norwood Teague, Director of Athletics; Head Coach Shaka Smart; and members of the 2011-2012 Virginia Commonwealth University men's basketball team as an expression of the General Assembly's pride in the team and of the General Assembly's admiration of the team's exhilarating and exceptional performance during a remarkable 2011-2012 basketball season.

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