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## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 360

Offered January 18, 2013

*Commending Gabrielle Christina Victoria Douglas.*

Patrons—Lucas, Alexander, Herring, Locke, Marsh and McEachin

WHEREAS, Gabrielle Christina Victoria Douglas of Virginia Beach triumphed at the Games of the XXX Olympiad held in London in 2012 by capturing a gold medal in the Olympic Women's Individual All-Around event in Women's Artistic Gymnastics and a team gold medal in women's gymnastics; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of Timothy Douglas and Natalie Hawkins, Gabrielle "Gabby" Douglas began training in gymnastics at the age of six and earned her first state championship when she was just eight years of age; and

WHEREAS, over the years, Gabby Douglas' natural talent grew under the guidance of her coaches and she moved to Des Moines, Iowa, in 2010 with her mother's blessing to pursue training with world-renowned Olympic coach Liang Chow; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to her dream of reaching the Olympics, Gabby Douglas thrived under Liang Chow's tutelage, earning a place on the U.S. Olympic women's gymnastics team at the Games of the XXX Olympiad held in London in 2012; and

WHEREAS, the world watched as Gabby Douglas thrilled the audience with her high-flying skills and brilliantly executed technical performances that showcased her tremendous strength, talent, and grace; and

WHEREAS, Gabby Douglas became the first American gymnast to win both the all-around individual and the team gold in the same games and the first African American and woman of color to win a gold medal in the Olympic Women's Individual All-Around event in Women's Artistic Gymnastics; and

WHEREAS, Gabby Douglas, who captured the hearts of millions worldwide with her radiant smile, has graced the covers of *Essence*, *Sports Illustrated*, and *Time Magazine*, and a special edition Kellogg's Corn Flakes box since her Olympic debut; and

WHEREAS, an extraordinarily talented athlete, Gabby Douglas has brought great honor to Virginia Beach, the Commonwealth, and the nation with her astounding gymnastic performances and continues to inspire other young women to work hard to achieve their goals; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Gabrielle Christina Victoria Douglas on winning a gold medal in the Olympic Women's Individual All-Around event in Women's Artistic Gymnastics and a team gold medal in women's gymnastics at the Games of the XXX Olympiad held in London in 2012; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Gabrielle Christina Victoria Douglas as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and admiration for her inspiring Olympic performance.

INTRODUCED

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