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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 149

Offered February 18, 2014

*Celebrating the life of Patrick Charles Gantt.*

Patrons—Stosch, McDougle, Miller, Norment, Vogel and Wexton; Delegates: Brink, Farrell, Hugo, Kilgore, Mason and Stolle

WHEREAS, Patrick Charles Gantt, a devoted College of William and Mary sports fan and inspirational member of the Sandston community, died on November 12, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Patrick Gantt, affectionately known as "PG," joined the staff of the College of William and Mary football team as a volunteer in 1983; he diligently served the team for three years until he was hired as the full-time assistant equipment manager in 1986; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, following the Tribe's historic victory over the University of Virginia Cavaliers, Patrick Gantt was paralyzed from the chest down after falling in a tragic accident; and

WHEREAS, displaying indomitable spirit, Patrick Gantt completed three years of physical rehabilitation and returned to the College of William and Mary, still a proud and devoted fan; and

WHEREAS, Patrick Gantt remained a loyal supporter of the team for the rest of his life; he became a fixture on the sidelines and in the locker room, often sitting in on practices and coaches' meetings and always offering encouragement and motivation to the members of the team; and

WHEREAS, Patrick Gantt's sister, Vickie, always made time to drive her brother to games, allowing him to be a part of the team, and Head Coach Jimmye Laycock designated a prime spot on the sidelines for him; and

WHEREAS, Patrick Gantt proudly cheered on the Tribe when they again bested the Cavaliers in 2009, after which he received the game ball; today, the coaches' suite in the College of William and Mary football center bears his name; and

WHEREAS, Patrick Gantt is a fine example of the power of hope and courage in the face of adversity, and he remains a source of inspiration for people throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Patrick Gantt enjoyed being a lifelong member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Richmond; and

WHEREAS, Patrick Gantt will be fondly remembered and deeply missed by his sister, Vickie, and numerous other family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note with great sadness the loss of Patrick Charles Gantt, a lifelong supporter of College of William and Mary athletics and an admired member of the Sandston community; and, be it

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

INTRODUCED

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