

2017 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 305

Offered January 17, 2017

Commending Tom Harding.

Patron—Pillion

WHEREAS, Tom Harding, the former Honaker High School baseball coach, was inducted into the Virginia High School League Hall of Fame in October 2016, capping a season during which he became the league's all-time winningest baseball coach; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia High School League (VHSL) Hall of Fame is dedicated to preserving the rich heritage of outstanding achievements by students and adults in sports and activities within Virginia's public high schools; and

WHEREAS, Tom Harding's induction into the VHSL Hall of Fame was the culmination of a 46-year career that included a record-setting 633 wins and the 2011 VHSL Group A state championship; and

WHEREAS, Tom Harding broke the VHSL's record for most wins as a baseball coach in May 2016, when he recorded his 632nd win with a 3 - 1 victory over Northwood High School; and

WHEREAS, Tom Harding was inducted into the VHSL Hall of Fame in the same class as one of his former players, Pittsburgh Steeler Heath Miller, a Super Bowl champion tight end and graduate of the University of Virginia and Honaker High School; and

WHEREAS, Tom Harding retired as a teacher in the Russell County School System years ago but remained dedicated to coaching baseball at Honaker High School, whose baseball field is named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, even as Tom Harding battled some recent health issues, his passion for coaching never waned, and his genuine belief in his players' ability to succeed gave hundreds of young men confidence on and off the baseball diamond; and

WHEREAS, Tom Harding is beloved by the Honaker High School community and respected as a great coach, a great person, and a great man; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That Tom Harding hereby be commended on his induction into the Virginia High School League Hall of Fame in 2016; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Tom Harding, a longtime fixture at Honaker High School and the winningest baseball coach of all-time in the Virginia High School League, as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for his record-setting career and his unwavering dedication to four decades of Honaker High School baseball teams.

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