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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 981**

Offered February 14, 2019

*Commending Harry James Johnson.*

Patrons—Marshall; Senators: Ruff and Stanley

WHEREAS, Harry James Johnson, a former coach and educator for Danville Public Schools, has touched the lives of countless young men and women during his lifetime of outstanding community service; and

WHEREAS, over the course of Harry Johnson's long and fulfilling career as an educator with Danville Public Schools, he helped prepare young people for success in higher education and careers and gave them the tools to become responsible citizens of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, in addition to coaching youth athletics and high school football, Harry Johnson served as head coach of the George Washington High School boys' basketball team for 19 years, amassing an impressive 348 - 146 record; and

WHEREAS, during his coaching career, Harry Johnson led the George Washington Eagles to 14 regular-season titles, five district tournament championships, and three regional championships; in 1996, the team finished with a perfect 28 - 0 record, a state championship, and national recognition by *USA Today* as the top public school basketball team in the nation and the fourth-best team in the nation overall; and

WHEREAS, Harry Johnson helped the George Washington Eagles achieve success in academics as well as athletics and used his network of friends and colleagues at the college level to support players pursuing higher education; and

WHEREAS, after his retirement from coaching in 1996, Harry Johnson remained active in civic and service groups in Danville, including the Kiwanis Club, the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, and Kappa Alpha Psi; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Harry Johnson was recognized by the Danville School Board for his work as a mentor and advocate for young people through Big Brothers, Big Sisters; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Harry James Johnson for his personal and professional achievements in service to the young people of Danville; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Harry James Johnson as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for his legacy of contributions to the Danville community.

INTRODUCED

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