

2021 SPECIAL SESSION II

ENROLLED

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 816

Commending Elisha Harris.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, August 5, 2021

WHEREAS, Elisha Harris, a longtime educator and athletics coach in Hampton Roads, retired from coaching in 2021 after more than four decades of contributions to young people; and

WHEREAS, a native of Virginia Beach, Elisha Harris was given the nickname "Cadillac" after his youth football coach's favorite car that had been in several collisions but never stopped running; and

WHEREAS, Cadillac Harris graduated from Norfolk State University where he led the football team to three consecutive Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association championships; he considered playing professional football but ultimately settled in Hampton Roads to work with young people as a high school coach; and

WHEREAS, Cadillac Harris was the first African American high school head football coach in Virginia Beach; and

WHEREAS, Cadillac Harris coached football and track and field at schools throughout Hampton Roads and Northern North Carolina, including Kempsville High School, Green Run High School, Elizabeth City State University, Maury High School, and most recently, Indian River High School in Chesapeake; and

WHEREAS, Cadillac Harris led his teams to numerous championship titles and several of his former athletes went on to play professional football, including three who appeared in Super Bowls; and

WHEREAS, Cadillac Harris strove to help his student-athletes achieve success in academics and gave them the tools to become good citizens and leaders in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Cadillac Harris is a generous supporter of many charitable organizations and community events, and he has mentored young people as a motivational speaker and youth counselor; he cofounded the Cadillac Harris Braves Open, which has raised more than \$100,000 for students in Chesapeake Public Schools; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That Elisha Harris hereby be commended on the occasion of his retirement from coaching youth athletics; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Elisha Harris as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for his achievements in service to young people in Hampton Roads.

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