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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 715

Offered February 16, 2023

*Commending Will Daniel.*

Patrons—VanValkenburg, Bagby and Willett

WHEREAS, Will Daniel, a Special Olympics athlete and sports super fan who has become known as the "Mayor of Richmond Sports" for his passionate support of local teams, was selected as the 2023 Fan of the Year at the RVA Sports Awards; and

WHEREAS, the RVA Sports Awards, established by the Richmond Region Tourism Foundation and presented by Rosie's Gaming Emporium and Colonial Downs Racetrack, recognizes athletes and local leaders like Will Daniel who have enhanced community life through sports; and

WHEREAS, born with Down syndrome, Will Daniel has competed in the Special Olympics as a powerlifter and a member of basketball and soccer teams; he is also a member of the Special Olympics Global Messenger program and has spoken publicly about the mission of the Special Olympics and the importance of accepting others as they are; and

WHEREAS, Will Daniel has become a fixture at Richmond Kickers soccer games and has traveled the country and the world to support the United States men's national soccer team; he has developed many friendships with players and coaches in USL League One and Major League Soccer; and

WHEREAS, Will Daniel is also an avid supporter of several local high school teams and the University of Richmond men's basketball team; he previously served as an unofficial manager of the University of Richmond women's basketball team, attending most practices and games to help with equipment and offer insightful advice to coaches and staff; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his contributions to the world of sports, Will Daniel has offered his expertise to the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities and works with medical and dental students at Virginia Commonwealth University; and

WHEREAS, through his accomplishments as an athlete, a fan, and a servant-leader, Will Daniel has set an excellent example for people in the community and inspired others with his positivity, enthusiasm, loyalty, sportsmanship, and spirit; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Will Daniel, an inspirational athlete and the "Mayor of Richmond Sports" on the occasion of his selection as the 2023 Fan of the Year at the RVA Sports Awards; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Will Daniel as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for his exceptional contributions to the Richmond sports community.

INTRODUCED

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