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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 738

Offered February 16, 2023

*Commending The College of William & Mary football team.*

Patrons—Mullin, Batten, Bourne, Bulova, Sewell and Willett; Senators: Mason, McDougale, Norment and Vogel

WHEREAS, The College of William & Mary football team won the Colonial Athletic Association conference championship with a 37-26 win over the University of Richmond on November 19, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the contest between the The College of William & Mary Tribe and the University of Richmond Spiders, known as the Capital Cup since 2009, marked the 133rd time the programs have played one another since 1898, making it one of the longest-standing rivalries in college football; and

WHEREAS, the William & Mary Tribe's victory was a total team effort, led by a strong performance from quarterback Darius Wilson, who accounted for 269 yards and three touchdowns and who was named the Capital Cup Most Valuable Player; and

WHEREAS, after a loss to Elon University early in the season, the William & Mary Tribe rallied to post a program best 10-1 regular season record on its way to claiming its 13th conference championship in program history; and

WHEREAS, the William & Mary Tribe appeared in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Football Championship Subdivision playoffs for the first time in seven years, defeating Gardner-Webb University in the second round before falling to Montana State University in the quarterfinals; and

WHEREAS, the William & Mary Tribe has been led since 2019 by head coach Mike London, who has successfully motivated his players not only to perform their best on the gridiron but to excel academically in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, the William & Mary Tribe had a league-high 13 players receive all-conference honors in 2022, while sophomore linebacker John Pius was named Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Defensive Player of the Year and a top-three finalist for the Buck Buchanan Award and freshman cornerback Jalen Jones was named CAA Defensive Rookie of the Year; and

WHEREAS, the accomplishments of the William & Mary Tribe are the results of the hard work and dedication of the student-athletes, the leadership and guidance of their coaches and professors, and the unwavering support of the entire community of The College of William & Mary; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend The College of William & Mary football team for winning the 2022 Colonial Athletic Association conference championship; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Mike London, head coach of The College of William & Mary football team, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the team's achievements and best wishes for its future success.