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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27

Offered January 10, 2024

Prefiled January 9, 2024

*Designating the week of October 6, in 2024 and in each succeeding year, as Coach Appreciation Week in Virginia.*

Patrons—Price, Clark, Cole, Convirs-Fowler, Feggans, Henson, Hope, Jones, Keys-Gamarra, Krizek, Laufer, Lopez, Rasoul, Shin, Simonds and Ward; Senator: Salim

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, school athletics coaches throughout the Commonwealth play a vital role in the educational process by helping students build upon their academic achievements, maintain physical fitness, and better understand the importance of self-confidence, accountability, responsibility, and teamwork; and

WHEREAS, coaching is a year-round position that involves not only supervision and guidance during competitions, but pre-season planning with the school, officials, assistant coaches, and prospective student-athletes; storage and maintenance of equipment before, during, and after the season; and proper instruction of skills and techniques during practices; and

WHEREAS, coaches are responsible for the safety of their student-athletes and develop plans to deal with sports-related injuries, as well as illnesses and other emergencies; and

WHEREAS, coaches balance the needs of their students to ensure that athletics do not interfere with the learning process, home life, or their ability to participate in their communities; and

WHEREAS, by building supportive relationships based on trust and respect, coaches promote the physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being of their student-athletes and teach not only sportsmanship, but the value of good personal habits, sound judgment, and other leadership skills; and

WHEREAS, coaches have many opportunities for teaching real-world lessons on patience, perseverance, and good communication, and they help their student-athletes learn humility in victory and resilience in defeat; and

WHEREAS, coaches uphold the honor and ideals of their schools outside of the classroom and often outside of normal school hours; they set a positive example for student-athletes through their interactions with other coaches, officials, athletic directors, administrators, the media, parents, fans, and other members of the community; and

WHEREAS, according to a survey by the organization FlipGive, Virginia ranks among the top 10 states where coaches are most well-liked by players and parents; and

WHEREAS, the inaugural National Coaches Day was held on October 6, 1972, and recognized the critical role that coaches play in the lives of young people as mentors, counselors, and educators; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly designate the week of October 6, in 2024 and in each succeeding year, as Coach Appreciation Week in Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit copies of this resolution to the Virginia High School League and the Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association so that members of the organizations may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates post the designation of this week on the General Assembly's website.