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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 175

Offered February 25, 2026

*Celebrating the life of John Willie Parker, Sr.*

Patron—Feggans

WHEREAS, John Willie Parker, Sr., a proud veteran and a respected school athletics coach in Virginia Beach who touched countless lives through his passion for mentorship and commitment to excellence, died on February 2, 2026; and

WHEREAS, John Parker was born on May 3, 1960, and grew up Virginia Beach, where he attended First Colonial High School, distinguishing himself as a star athlete in track and field by setting state records in sprint and relay events; and

WHEREAS, John Parker earned an athletic scholarship to Norfolk State University in recognition of his exceptional talent and dedication; in 1980, he was invited to try out for the United States Olympic Track and Field Team, and although an injury prevented him from competing, the achievement reflected his extraordinary discipline and skill; and

WHEREAS, John Parker proudly served his country in the United States Army for 11 years as a cook, faithfully fulfilling his duties before receiving an honorable discharge; and

WHEREAS, following his military service, John Parker devoted 32 years of service to Virginia Beach Public Schools at Tallwood High School, working as a school security officer, assistant track coach, and later head track coach; he coached multiple teams and athletes to state titles, yet consistently credited the students for their hard work and accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, John Parker was deeply committed to the holistic development of every student he encountered, caring not only about their academic and athletic performance, but also their social, emotional, and physical well-being; and

WHEREAS, John Parker often purchased meals for students in need, served as a trusted listener, and offered daily words of encouragement to students and parents alike; many former students returned years later to express their gratitude for the lasting impact he had on their lives, a testament to his humility, character, and unwavering dedication; and

WHEREAS, John Parker believed that success is a lifelong journey and found great joy in helping young people grow into respectful, honorable, and accomplished adults; and

WHEREAS, John Parker will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his beloved wife, his five children and their families, including six grandchildren and one great-grandchild, and numerous other family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note with great sadness the loss of John Willie Parker, Sr., a veteran, school athletics coach, and highly admired community leader; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of John Willie Parker, Sr., as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

INTRODUCED

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