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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 63

Offered January 19, 2022

Commending Robert Casto.

Patrons—Hanger and Deeds; Delegates: Avoli and Campbell, R.R.

WHEREAS, Robert Casto, longtime head coach of the Riverheads High School football team of Staunton, whose nine state championships over 26 seasons made him a legend of Virginia high school football, retired in 2022; and

WHEREAS, Robert Casto began his storied coaching career as an assistant coach at Buffalo Gap High School in Swoope and later served as head coach at Chincoteague High School before becoming an assistant coach at Riverheads High School; and

WHEREAS, Robert Casto took command of the Riverheads High School Gladiators in 1996 and within four years had led the team to an undefeated season and a state championship title; and

WHEREAS, in addition to their title from 2000, Robert Casto's Gladiators claimed state championship victories in 2006 and 2010 before mounting an astounding six-championship streak from 2016 to 2021; and

WHEREAS, at the time of Robert Casto's retirement, the Riverheads Gladiators' run of 50 consecutive wins stands as the longest active winning streak in the nation for a high school football program and is only two games shy of the Virginia High School League record; and

WHEREAS, following his team's 45-14 victory over Galax High School in the 2021 Virginia High School League Class 1 state championship, Robert Casto's lifetime record at Riverheads High School stands at 261-59; and

WHEREAS, Robert Casto's achievements are the result of his steadfast commitment to his players and their growth and maturation as both athletes and citizens, as he has cultivated a team culture that is an inspiration to programs throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, Robert Casto also retires from a distinguished career as a physical education teacher, in which he worked tirelessly to promote the health and well-being of his students and to ensure their success beyond the classroom; and

WHEREAS, Robert Casto's legacy at Riverheads High School includes the community there that he has helped build, which will fondly remember and ardently celebrate his accomplishments on the gridiron for years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Robert Casto, beloved coach of the Riverheads High School football team, on the occasion of his retirement; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Robert Casto as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for his contributions to the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED

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