

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2007**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 317\***

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Sponsors: Representatives Gulley, Tillis, Earle, Saunders (Primary Sponsors); Adams, Alexander, Allen, Almond, Avila, Barnhart, Bell, Blue, Blust, Bordsen, Boylan, Braxton, Brisson, Brubaker, Bryant, Carney, Church, Cleveland, Coleman, Current, Daughtridge, Daughtry, Dickson, Dockham, Dollar, England, Faison, Farmer-Butterfield, Fisher, Folwell, Frye, Gibson, Glazier, Goodwin, Grady, Hackney, Haire, Hilton, Holloway, Howard, Hurley, Jeffus, Johnson, Jones, Justus, Killian, Langdon, Lucas, Luebke, McAllister, McComas, McGee, McLawhorn, Moore, Neumann, Pate, Pierce, Rapp, Ray, Ross, Samuelson, Setzer, Spear, Stam, Starnes, Steen, Sutton, Thomas, Tolson, Tucker, Wainwright, Walker, R. Warren, Weiss, West, Wiley, Wilkins, Williams, Womble, Wray, and Wright.

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Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

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February 22, 2007

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING INDEPENDENCE HIGH SCHOOL ON  
2 HAVING AN OUTSTANDING FOOTBALL TEAM AND HONORING THE  
3 MEMORY OF DEVIN HOWARD.  
4 Whereas, on December 9, 2006, the football team at Charlotte's Independence  
5 High School won the State's 4-AA Football Championship by defeating Durham's  
6 Riverside High School by a score of 49-19; and  
7 Whereas, the Patriots earned a place in the history books by becoming the  
8 State's first public high school football team to win seven straight championships; and  
9 Whereas, since September 2000, the Patriots have won 108 games in a row,  
10 which is a national public school record; and  
11 Whereas, many Patriot players have been recognized for their individual  
12 efforts, including three players named to Parade Magazine's All-America team, two  
13 players selected as the North Carolina Gatorade players of the year, and players chosen  
14 for the Shrine Bowl team; and  
15 Whereas, several former Patriots have played college-level football in the  
16 Atlantic Coast Conference, Southeastern Conference, and other conferences across the  
17 United States; and  
18 Whereas, the Patriots owe much of their success during their outstanding  
19 2006 season to head coach Tom Knotts who has been coaching football for 24 years and  
20 has a record of 259-55; and

1           Whereas, the achievements of Independence High School's football team is a  
2 fitting testimonial and memorial to the dedicated young men who have played for the  
3 team, including Devin Howard, who died in April of 2005 and had been selected as the  
4 defensive player of the year in the ME-CA 8 conference and as a member of the  
5 Charlotte Observer's All-Observer team and the All-State team in 2004; and

6           Whereas, the Patriot's successful football program has brought great honor  
7 and distinction to the State and deserves recognition; Now, therefore,

8 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

9           **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly congratulates the Independence High  
10 School Patriots on winning the 2006 State 4-AA Football Championship and recognizes  
11 the achievements of the players, coaches, students, alumni, and support staff who were  
12 instrumental in helping the team succeed.

13           **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Devin Howard  
14 for his contributions to football at Independence High School.

15           **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a copy of this resolution  
16 to the principal and head football coach at Independence High School and the family of  
17 Devin Howard.

18           **SECTION 4.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.