

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 253*

Sponsors: Senators Goodall; Clodfelter, Dannelly, Graham, Jones, and Pittenger.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

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

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

26 Whereas, the Patriot's successful football program has brought great honor
27 and distinction to the State and deserves recognition; Now, therefore,
28 Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

29 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly congratulates the Independence High
30 School Patriots on winning the 2006 State 4-AA Football Championship and recognizes

1 the achievements of the players, coaches, students, alumni, and support staff who were
2 instrumental in helping the team succeed.

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

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

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