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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 495

Offered February 23, 2009

*Commending Mike Tomlin.*

Patrons—Norment; Delegates: Hamilton, Oder and Pogge

WHEREAS, Mike Tomlin, a native of Hampton, is commended for his outstanding leadership of the Pittsburgh Steelers, who won their sixth Super Bowl title, the first team in National Football League history to win six Super Bowl titles; and

WHEREAS, Mike Tomlin attended Denbigh High School in Newport News and received a bachelor's degree from the The College of William and Mary, where he started for three years as a wide receiver/tight end and set a school record of 20 touchdown catches; and

WHEREAS, Mike Tomlin began his coaching career as a wide receivers coach at Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia, and then worked at the University of Memphis, the University of Tennessee at Martin, the University of Cincinnati, and Arkansas State University; and

WHEREAS, Mike Tomlin then moved into professional coaching when he was hired as the defensive backs coach for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, where he was part of the coaching staff that led the Buccaneers to their first Super Bowl win; and

WHEREAS, Mike Tomlin was named the Minnesota Vikings' defensive coordinator in 2006, before he became the head coach of the Pittsburgh Steelers, the National Football League's second youngest head coach, on January 22, 2007; and

WHEREAS, under Mike Tomlin's first year of leadership, the Steelers compiled a regular season record of 10-6, won a division title, and earned a playoff berth; and

WHEREAS, Mike Tomlin's ability not only to lead, but also to listen and skillfully manage personalities, allowed him to lead the Pittsburgh Steelers to a win over the Arizona Cardinals by a score of 27-23 and an unprecedented sixth Super Bowl title on February 1, 2009; and

WHEREAS, with great persistence and dedication, Mike Tomlin, at age 36, became the youngest head coach to lead his team to a Super Bowl victory; and

WHEREAS, only the 10th African-American head coach in NFL history and the first in the Steelers' history, Mike Tomlin became only the third African-American head coach to participate in the Super Bowl and the second to win it; and

WHEREAS, Mike Tomlin was named the 2008 Motorola NFL Coach of the Year on January 29, 2009; he has demonstrated great leadership, integrity, and commitment to excellence, which is an inspiration to all; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly commend Mike Tomlin for his outstanding leadership of the Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh Steelers; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Mike Tomlin as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his many achievements and best wishes for all his future endeavors.

INTRODUCED

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