

## Senate Resolution 1086

By: Senators Stoner of the 6th, Wiles of the 37th, Thompson of the 33rd, Rogers of the 21st and Hill of the 32nd

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Coach James "Friday" Richards on the occasion of his
- 2 retirement; and for other purposes.
- 3 WHEREAS, Coach James "Friday" Richards has long been recognized for his superior
- 4 coaching skills, his dedication to challenging the future leaders of Georgia, and his incredible
- 5 devotion to his players; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Coach Richards graduated from Marietta High School, where he was one of the
- 7 best running backs in the football program's history and was the first African American to
- 8 be named Mr. MHS; and
- 9 WHEREAS, he played for the University of Florida Gators, where he awed and amazed fans
- 10 as a member of one of the fastest backfields in the nation; and
- 11 WHEREAS, Coach Richards was drafted by the National Football League, where he played
- 12 for the New York Jets and the Washington Redskins under Coach Lou Holtz; and
- 13 WHEREAS, after his career in the NFL, Coach Richards returned to Marietta and was united
- 14 in love and marriage to his high school sweetheart, Dorothy Sanders Richards, a union which
- 15 blessed him with a daughter, Jaimie; and
- 16 WHEREAS, he diligently and conscientiously dedicated his time, talents, and energy for 31
- 17 years to challenging athletes to achieve their utmost potential with the football program at
- 18 Marietta High School, serving as head coach for 15 years; and
- 19 WHEREAS, during his tenure as a coach with the Blue Devils, his teams won 107 games,
- 20 ranking him second for the most wins in the school's history; and

21 WHEREAS, Coach Richards had four teams finish ranked in the top ten in Georgia, had two  
22 undefeated regular seasons, four region championships, and ten state playoff teams; and

23 WHEREAS, with great respect and honor, Coach Richards's Number 44 jersey was retired  
24 at Marietta High School 20 years ago, and he was in the first class of inductees to the  
25 Marietta Hall of Fame; and

26 WHEREAS, he brought out the superior athletic ability of his players and served as a role  
27 model and mentor to his teams, sending more players to college on football scholarships than  
28 any other coach in the history of Marietta and Cobb County; and

29 WHEREAS, in recognition of his contributions to the students in this state, it is abundantly  
30 fitting and proper for this body to honor the extraordinary commitment and accomplishments  
31 of this outstanding individual.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
33 recognize Coach James "Friday" Richards for his decades of service to the future leaders of  
34 this state, commend his commitment to the student-athletes of Cobb County, and  
35 congratulate him upon the grand occasion of his retirement.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
37 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Coach James "Friday" Richards.