

House Resolution 1353

By: Representatives Dooley of the 38th, Manning of the 32nd, Wix of the 33rd, Johnson of the 37th, and Morgan of the 39th

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
32 the members of this body recognize Coach James "Friday" Richards for his decades of
33 service to the future leaders of this state and commend his commitment to the
34 student-athletes of Cobb County.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House Representatives is authorized and
36 directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Coach James "Friday" Richards.