

1 HR407
2 186245-1
3 By Representative Knight
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 02-MAY-17

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8 COMMENDING JIM CALDWELL FOR OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL
9 ACHIEVEMENT.

10
11 WHEREAS, Jim Caldwell is the legendary Head Coach
12 for the Detroit Lions; he has served as the head football
13 coach at Wake Forest University from 1993 until 2000; he was
14 also the Head Coach of the Indianapolis Colts from 2009 until
15 2011; and

16 WHEREAS, the distinguished native of Beloit,
17 Wisconsin, Jim Caldwell was a standout athlete in three sports
18 at Beloit Memorial High School; as a senior, he was a part of
19 a state championship basketball team and a track team that
20 finished second in the state; and

21 WHEREAS, Jim Caldwell attended the University of
22 Iowa where he gained a first-string spot in the defensive
23 backfield as a freshman; he graduated with a degree in English
24 Literature in 1977; and

25 WHEREAS, after serving one year as a graduate
26 assistant at his alma mater, he accepted his full-time

1 position under coach Rey Dempsey at Southern Illinois where he
2 stayed three years; and

3 WHEREAS, Jim Caldwell then worked one season under
4 Dennis Green at Northwestern before moving to Colorado for
5 three years under Bill McCartney who was building a national
6 championship program there; and

7 WHEREAS, Jim Caldwell's last stop prior to Penn
8 State was Louisville in 1985 where he coached under a former
9 national championship coach, Howard Schnellenberger; he then
10 joined Coach Joe Paterno's staff in 1986 as the wide receivers
11 coach; in 1987, he was assigned to coaching the quarterbacks
12 and then took over the total passing game the following year;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Jim Caldwell has a special place in history
15 as the first black football coach in the Atlantic Coast
16 Conference; he accepts that fact as part of his own personal
17 coaching history, but adds that he hopes to increase the
18 recognition of his Wake Forest program for other reasons; and

19 WHEREAS, Jim Caldwell is currently 27-21 with
20 Detroit in three seasons, and his 0.562 winning percentage is
21 the best for a Lions Coach during the Super Bowl era and the
22 best since Buddy Parker went 50-24-2; and

23 WHEREAS, the Detroit Historical Society's Black
24 Historic Sites Committee recognized Jim Caldwell and four
25 others for being African American "firsts" in their fields of
26 endeavor; and

1 WHEREAS, Caldwell is the first African American
2 coach hired by the Detroit Lions; now therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
4 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That Jim Caldwell is highly
5 honored and commended, and this resolution is offered to him
6 in deepest admiration and appreciation for his significant
7 contributions to coaching, along with sincere best wishes for
8 continued success in all future endeavors.