

By Senator Hill

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Senate Resolution

A resolution honoring Willard Cooper, Putnam
County high school football coach.

WHEREAS, Willard Cooper, who coached for a total of 18
years, 13 years with Central Academy and 5 years with Central
High, and was twice named Big 9 East Coach of the Year,
remains one of the longest-serving football coaches in Putnam
County, and

WHEREAS, "Hey, Bulldog!" will forever be recalled
affectionately as the standard greeting used by Coach Cooper
to players and students alike, and

WHEREAS, Coach Cooper's expert coaching skills enabled
him to develop the talents of a number of his students,
including David Daniels, who won a football scholarship to
Florida A&M University and went on to play with the Oakland
Raiders; Grady Smith, who later excelled as a runner at
Florida A&M University and set a world track record; and
Horace Jefferson, a three-sport star, who has coached
basketball at St. Johns River Community College since 1994,
and

WHEREAS, Coach Cooper's wisdom, outstanding character,
and exceptional determination enabled him to guide and inspire
his team members and many other students through the difficult
years of desegregation, and

WHEREAS, Willard Cooper not only taught young people
lessons in the game of football, but more importantly taught
them lessons in the game of life, earning him the respect and
admiration of all who know him, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

1 That the Senate honors Willard Cooper, a cherished
2 member of his community who, through his work as a high school
3 football coach, dedicated his career to improving the lives of
4 all students.
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