

**RESOLUTION NAMING  
THE QUARTERBACKS ROOM IN THE MERRYMAN ATHLETIC CENTER  
FOR BRUCE ARIANS '74**

**WHEREAS**, Bruce and Chris Arians have been a loyal supporters of the Virginia Tech Athletic Fund and the university through their philanthropy; and

**WHEREAS**, Bruce Arians was a football letterman at Virginia Tech and honed his quarterback skills from 1971 to 74; and

**WHEREAS**, Bruce Arians, as a quarterback, rushed for 11 touchdowns during the 1974 season, a program record that stood for over forty years; and

**WHEREAS**, Bruce Arians has had a truly distinguished career in coaching in the collegiate ranks at Virginia Tech, Mississippi State, Alabama, and Temple (head coach), as well as in the professional ranks with the Kansas City Chiefs, New Orleans Saints, Indianapolis Colts (head coach), Cleveland Browns, Pittsburgh Steelers, Arizona Cardinals (head coach) and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers (head coach); and

**WHEREAS**, Bruce Arians is a two-time Associated Press NFL Coach of the Year, and also won two Super Bowls as an assistant coach with the Pittsburgh Steelers in 2005 and 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, Head Coach Bruce Arians led the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to a 31-9 victory over the Kansas City Chiefs in Super Bowl LV; and

**WHEREAS**, Bruce and Chris Arians have made a significant commitment to Football Enhancement and the Reach for Excellence Campaign;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that in appreciation to Bruce and Chris Arians for their generosity towards Virginia Tech and the Department of Athletics, the Quarterbacks Room in the Merryman Athletic Center be named The Bruce Arians Room.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the above resolution naming The Bruce Arians Room be approved.

April 4, 2022

**RESOLUTION NAMING TENNIS COURT #4  
IN THE BURROWS-BURLESON TENNIS CENTER  
FOR THOMAS L. AND NANCY L. GABBARD**

**WHEREAS**, Thomas L. Gabbard has been an exceptional Athletics Administrator since he arrived at Virginia Tech in 1998, supporting then-Director of Athletics, James C. Weaver, and then his successor, Athletic Director Whit Babcock, and he holds an unrivaled passion and commitment to Virginia Tech; and

**WHEREAS**, Tom and Nancy Gabbard are Hokies at heart as Hokie Club members and sports enthusiasts; and

**WHEREAS**, with the unconditional and steadfast support of his wife, Tom has been an active proponent and sports administrator for men's and women's tennis, men's basketball, and men's and women's golf, including a role as co-establishmentarian of the university's women's golf program with head coach Carol Robertson; and

**WHEREAS**, he has held numerous executive staff roles of increasing responsibility, indicative of his knowledge, expertise, and grace in leadership, culminating in his appointment as Senior Associate Athletics Director for Facilities and Operations; and

**WHEREAS**, Tom Gabbard has been influential and instrumental in a myriad of construction projects in the Department of Athletics, including major facility renovations in excess of \$500 million. His leadership and guidance were manifested effectively through his efforts in the construction or renovation of sites such as the Beamer-Lawson Football Practice Facility, Hahn-Hurst Basketball Practice Facility, Jim Weaver Batting Facility, Burrows-Burleson Tennis Center transformation, the reimaged Rector Field House, Lane Stadium additions, the football weight room, and the state-of-the-art Student-Athlete Performance Center; and

**WHEREAS**, Tom achieved the rank of first lieutenant in the U.S. Army's artillery branch, and he continued his legacy of service at Virginia Tech, serving as a member of the operations team for the healing concert for Virginia Tech in 2007 and a volunteer leader on numerous university committees during his 23-year tenure, personifying the university's motto of *Ut Prosim*;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that in recognition of Tom Gabbard's exceptional service and countless contributions to the Department of Athletics and the university, in addition to his love for the sport of tennis that includes weekly matches with Virginia Tech Hall of Famer Mike Burnop, on the occasion of his retirement in December 2021, tennis court #4 in the Burrows-Burleson Tennis Center will be named the Tom and Nancy Gabbard Court.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the above resolution naming the Tom and Nancy Gabbard Court be approved.

April 4, 2022

**RESOLUTION NAMING THE TRACK AND FIELD/ CROSS COUNTRY  
HEAD COACH'S OFFICE IN CASSELL COLISEUM  
FOR DR. JEREMIAH "JERRY" GAINES, JR. '71**

**WHEREAS**, Jeremiah "Jerry" Gaines is a 1971 alumnus of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, having received a Bachelor's degree in Spanish; and

**WHEREAS**, Jeremiah "Jerry" Gaines, as Virginia Tech's first Black scholarship student-athlete, forged a path for every Black athlete and Black student that followed in his footsteps as a Hokie; and

**WHEREAS**, Jerry Gaines held the university's long jump record which stood for 42 years, as well as the 120-yard hurdles record that still stands today; and

**WHEREAS**, Jerry Gaines embodies the spirit of Ut Prosim, having begun a life of service as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army, followed by becoming a high school Spanish teacher and coach, where he greatly influenced the lives of thousands of students until his retirement in 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, a group of teammates, friends and students of Jerry Gaines have committed \$100,000 to the men's track and field program to honor the legacy of Jerry and the path he paved for those to follow;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that, in appreciation of the incredible legacy of Jerry Gaines in the classroom, as an educator and coach, on the track, and in service to the community as a representative of Virginia Tech and the Department of Athletics, the Head Track Coach's Office in Cassell Coliseum be named the Dr. Jerry Gaines, Jr. '71 Head Coach's Office.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the above resolution naming the Dr. Jerry Gaines, Jr. '71 Head Coach's Office be approved.

April 4, 2022

**RESOLUTION ON NAMING THE RANDOLPH HALL REPLACEMENT BUILDING  
FOR WENDY AND NORRIS E. MITCHELL '58**

**WHEREAS**, Norris E. Mitchell, an esteemed alumnus, graduated from Virginia Tech in 1958 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering; and

**WHEREAS**, Norris E. Mitchell has had a successful and respected career in the aerospace industry and in real estate; and

**WHEREAS**, Norris E. Mitchell along with the participation and full support of his wife, Wendy Mitchell, has had an extensive volunteer career at Virginia Tech to include service as a member of the President's Council Membership Committee, Regional Campaign Committee, Hokies for Higher Education, the 1958 Reunion Planning Committee, the Engineering Committee of 100, and the Academy of Engineering Excellence; and

**WHEREAS**, Norris and Wendy Mitchell have been recognized as President's Circle members of the Ut Prosim Society for their philanthropy to the university that includes support for the College of Engineering, the Mitchell Endowed Professorship, the Aeronautical Engineering Class of 1958 Scholarship, and the Mitchell Memorial Scholarship the Mitchell Robotics Laboratory in Goodwin Hall, as well as considerable support provided to the College of Engineering construction funds and endowment; and

**WHEREAS**, Wendy and Norris Mitchell have been, and continue to be, valued members of the university community;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that in acknowledgement of the service and generosity of Wendy and Norris Mitchell and in recognition of past and future benefits to the university, the replacement of Randolph Hall, will be known as the Wendy and Norris E. Mitchell '58 Hall.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the above resolution naming the Wendy and Norris E. Mitchell '58 Hall be approved.

April 4, 2022