

SURRY COUNTY SCHOOLS
NEWS RELEASE

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Coach David H. Diamont Honored with Stadium Naming Ceremony

Longtime coach, David H. Diamont, was honored on Sunday, September 9, 2018, at East Surry High School with a program for the naming of the David H. Diamont Stadium with Superintendent, Dr. Travis L. Reeves, presiding. A crowd of former players, coaches, family, friends, colleagues, and community members filled the bleachers as the East Surry JROTC presented the colors and Coach Diamont's daughter, Ms. Ashley Diamont, sang the National Anthem. Diamont was honored with a keynote speech from the Honorable Roy A. Cooper, Governor of the State of North Carolina, a friend of Diamont's from his days on the House of Representatives.

Governor Cooper shared, "This ceremony fits into my mission for the state of North Carolina. ...When I think about Dave Diamont's life, I think about the power of public education. I think about teachers who influenced my life. I think about how sports taught me discipline, leadership, and how to deal with lows and highs." Governor Cooper went on to say, "...I recall how Dave loved Surry County, talked about his players with fire in his eyes, made a difference in their future, and taught them leadership skills." Additionally, Governor Cooper presented Coach Diamont with the Laurel Wreath Award, the highest North Carolina award for athletic achievement.

The Honorable Dwight Atkins, Mayor of Pilot Mountain, presented a proclamation ordered by Town Commissioners declaring September 9, 2018, David H. Diamont Day. Subsequently, Dr. Sandy B. George, President of the Board of Directors, brought greetings from the North Carolina Athletic Association, and a standing ovation as she called the names of groups of people including former players, students, assistant coaches, colleagues and all Coach Diamont had positively impacted. Dr. George summarized her remarks by turning to Coach Diamont, whom she shared she'd known for 25 years, and added, "Coach Diamont, the fact that you have made an impact on all of us standing is priceless."

The Surry County Schools Board of Education hosted the event, electing to name the stadium in Coach David H. Diamont's honor. Mrs. Mamie Sutphin represented the Board by sharing the impact Coach Diamont has made on public education through his influence on the North Carolina Teaching Fellow Program, among other notable impacts on our schools, community, and state. Mrs. Sutphin remarked, "No matter what Coach Diamont did; in all that he did, the goal was to ensure that young men and women became responsible citizens." Mrs. Sutphin also referenced Surry County Schools Board Policy 9300 as she shared, "A facility may be named in honor of someone who has helped students in this district succeed through educational leadership. Also of consideration is the name of an educational leader of prominence and reputation beyond the school district. It is an honor for our Board of Education to name this stadium, the David H. Diamont Stadium." The Board unveiled a beautiful granite monument that will be placed at the entrance to the stadium. It features a photo of Coach Diamont in the middle and is engraved with Coach Diamont's quote, "In this stadium, we bring our community together and help our children grow into good citizens." Mrs. Sutphin also referenced the new addition to the East Surry scoreboard which prominently displays a sign, *DAVID H. DIAMONT STADIUM*.

Mr. William Hart, teacher, soccer coach, and the Voice of East Surry Football, accepted the monument on behalf of East Surry athletics, administrators, faculty, staff, and students. In remarks about Coach Diamont having been a mentor and friend, Hart also shared, "This stadium is named more for the character of the man than the success of the coach." After remarks, Hart, in true Friday night fashion, introduced Coach David H. Diamont to the podium, a podium Diamont had used in his classroom for years when he taught at East Surry.

Coach Diamont began his remarks by telling Governor Cooper he was seeing the best in our state and shared, "Coaching football is about a team and the folks on the staff." Diamont went on to say, "This is a unique place, a symbol of what community can build. It is about more than just football. We reward hard work." Coach Diamont also took time to recognize numerous former players and coaches he had worked with through the years, asking them to stand, with most of the former East Surry head football coaches in attendance. Coach Diamont fittingly ended his remarks with, "You don't appreciate the peaks until you appreciate the valleys. Football doesn't build character; it reveals character. ...This stadium is a place for our school and community to come together."



