

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 271

Commending Dr. William Kelso and the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities.

Agreed to by the Senate, February 10, 2000
 Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 15, 2000

WHEREAS, Jamestown was the first permanent English settlement in the United States, is the birthplace of the United States as we know it today, and is a key part of the common history of the United States, England, and other western European countries; and

WHEREAS, as part of the activities leading up to the 400th anniversary of the landing at Jamestown, the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities launched the Jamestown Rediscovery Project, a 10-year archaeological, research, and educational program, on the association's property on Jamestown Island; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Dr. William Kelso, the association's director of archaeology and a world-renowned scholar, the excavation at the site of the 1607 James Fort was begun in 1994; and

WHEREAS, by 1996 Dr. Kelso and his associates had unearthed enough evidence to announce that they had found James Fort, thereby dispelling the long-held belief that the fort had been lost to the James River; and

WHEREAS, after six seasons of hard work, the archaeologists of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities have found significant parts of the original James Fort, including walls, buildings, rooms, a moat, and more than 300,000 artifacts; and

WHEREAS, the research findings from the Jamestown Rediscovery Project will contribute immeasurably to the interpretive plan for the national celebration in 2007 of the 400th anniversary of the landing at Jamestown; and

WHEREAS, the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities is working closely with Celebration 2007, the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, and the National Park Service to assure the best possible celebration of this seminal event in the nation's history; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Dr. William Kelso and the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities on their exceptional efforts to uncover the archaeological treasures of the 1607 Jamestown settlement; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare copies of this resolution for presentation to Dr. William Kelso, director of archeology, and Peter Dun Grover, executive director, as an expression of the General Assembly's appreciation for the outstanding contributions of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities to a greater understanding of the history of the Commonwealth and the nation.

ENROLLED

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