

2003 SESSION

ENROLLED

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 459

Designating 2003 as Aviation Centennial Year in Virginia.

Agreed to by the Senate, February 14, 2003
Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 19, 2003

WHEREAS, 2003 is the 100th anniversary of the first powered flight, which was accomplished by Orville and Wilbur Wright on December 17, 1903, in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, in honor of this centennial, the 105th Congress of the United States has declared 2003 the Aviation Centennial Year in America; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth is home to the NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, which since 1917 has been the site of much of the aviation research and development in the United States and is thus the birthplace of many aeronautical advances enjoyed throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, aviation in the Commonwealth is a critical component of the transportation network of Virginia, allowing citizens and commerce unparalleled safe and convenient access, both nationally and globally, through its nine commercial service airports and 58 general aviation airports; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth is home to the first military flight at Fort Myer in 1909, and Virginia possesses 10 active military airfields that routinely have played a major role in helping preserve the nation's freedoms; and

WHEREAS, aviation activity, through the movement of people and goods on scheduled and non-scheduled aircraft, provides directly and indirectly for a significant annual economic impact that exceeds \$20 billion a year in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, aviation is vital for the health, safety and welfare of Virginia by providing such specific benefits as emergency medical services, law enforcement, agricultural production, environmental protection, search and rescue, and disaster relief; and

WHEREAS, the Smithsonian Institution's Udvar—Hazy Center at Washington Dulles International Airport will open on December 17, 2003, becoming the largest and most comprehensive aviation museum in the world, adding to an already impressive list of recognized aviation museums in Virginia; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly designate 2003 as Aviation Centennial Year in Virginia. The General Assembly encourages all citizens and organizations in the Commonwealth to join together in celebration of the great achievements and cultural improvements to mankind brought about by the advancement and utilization of aviation during the past 100 years; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the General Assembly endorse continued advancement and enhancement of aviation through infrastructure development and aeronautical research, so that citizens of the Commonwealth may in the future enjoy greater levels of prosperity from aviation advancement and utilization; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the Senate post the designation of 2003 as Aviation Centennial Year in Virginia on the General Assembly's website.

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