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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 248

Offered January 19, 2004

Memorializing the Congress of the United States to ensure the reopening of Woodlawn Road through Fort Belvoir in Fairfax County.

Patrons—Amundson, Albo, Sickles and Van Landingham; Senator: Ticer

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the United States closed Woodlawn Road through Fort Belvoir in Fairfax County in response to security concerns and in the interest of homeland security following the tragic events of September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, the neighboring communities and major community institutions, such as schools and Mount Vernon Hospital have suffered very considerable inconvenience as well as economic hardship as the result of this closure; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia has a property right in the form of a permanent easement for a public road on and across Fort Belvoir, and the effect of closing Woodlawn Road is to deprive the Commonwealth and her citizens of their property rights in this critical transportation facility; and

WHEREAS, the United States is currently studying options for reopening, modifying, or relocating Woodlawn Road in and around Fort Belvoir, indicating that there are several potentially feasible options for open access to Woodlawn in a safe and secure manner; and

WHEREAS, the negative impact on the communities continue to increase with every month of continued closure of Woodlawn Road; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Congress of the United States be hereby memorialized to take all necessary actions to ensure that public access to Woodlawn Road is expeditiously restored in such a manner as to preserve the safety and security of Fort Belvoir and the surrounding communities; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit copies of this resolution to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and the members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation so that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter.