

## 2004 SESSION

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### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 350

Offered February 5, 2004

*Commending Steven Raymond Majewski.*

Patrons—Bell, Abbitt, Landes and Van Yahres

WHEREAS, Steven Raymond Majewski, a professor of astronomy at the University of Virginia, is the lead author of a groundbreaking study of the Milky Way galaxy; and

WHEREAS, a team of astronomers from the University of Virginia and the University of Massachusetts have discovered that the Milky Way is consuming a much smaller dwarf galaxy called Sagittarius; and

WHEREAS, the galactic cannibalism was revealed using data from the Two-Micron All Sky Survey, a major project using infrared light led by the University of Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, the study, published in the December 20, 2003, issue of the *Astrophysical Journal*, is the first to map the full extent of the Sagittarius galaxy and to show how its debris passes through and is consumed by the Milky Way; and

WHEREAS, the study also revealed the surprising proximity of the Earth to a portion of the Sagittarius debris; and

WHEREAS, the work by Professor Majewski and his colleagues is significant in astronomical circles for its use of technology to reveal clearly what astronomers had previously only suspected; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Steven Raymond Majewski for his leadership role in this important study of the near universe; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Steven Raymond Majewski as an expression of the admiration and best wishes of the General Assembly.

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