

2004 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 385

Commending the Chesapeake Emergency Operations Center.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 20, 2004

Agreed to by the Senate, February 26, 2004

WHEREAS, Hurricane Isabel struck the eastern United States on September 18, 2003, causing severe property damage and personal hardship for the citizens of the City of Chesapeake; and

WHEREAS, hurricane-force winds uprooted thousands of trees, downed numerous power lines, and caused extensive flooding, creating emergencies and widespread power loss throughout the City of Chesapeake; and

WHEREAS, the impact of the storm caused \$47,896,598 in losses, including 2,412 homes incurring damage, 631 homes sustaining major damage, and the total destruction of nine homes; and

WHEREAS, in addition, some 205,000 people in the City were left without electricity and the basic necessities needed for survival; and

WHEREAS, the Chesapeake Emergency Operations Center was activated on September 15, 2003, in preparation for Hurricane Isabel and remained activated for more than three weeks to manage, coordinate, and lead the City of Chesapeake's preparation, response, and recovery efforts relating to the storm; and

WHEREAS, often working 24-hour shifts for several days straight, the Emergency Operations staff led the effort to coordinate the restoration of power, provide thousands of hot meals for citizens, restore critical infrastructure, clear the transportation network, distribute more than 470,000 bottles of water and 35,500 bags of ice, and perform countless other missions; and

WHEREAS, the quick and professional response of the City of Chesapeake to devastated areas of the jurisdiction is an indication of the City's emphasis on customer service and the dedication, skill, and perseverance of its employees; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Chesapeake Emergency Operations Center and its many fine employees for providing critical assistance to the citizens of Chesapeake and for their determination and perseverance under the most trying of conditions to restore critical services in the most efficient and effective manner possible; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Chesapeake Emergency Operations Center as an expression of the General Assembly's appreciation and admiration for its fine work.

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