ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 856

Commending the Marshall-Wythe School of Law on the occasion of its 225th anniversary.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 4, 2005
Agreed to by the Senate, February 10, 2005

WHEREAS, 2004 marked the 225th anniversary of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at The College of William and Mary, America's first law school; and

WHEREAS, the law school was founded in 1779 by Virginia Governor Thomas Jefferson, who requested that his former mentor, George Wythe, be appointed the college's, and the nation's, first professor of law; and

WHEREAS, George Wythe, who had a distinguished career as a member of the Second Continental Congress, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, served as head of the law school at William and Mary for 10 years; and

WHEREAS, among the first students was John Marshall, who later became the fourth Chief Justice of the United States and whose service on the Supreme Court had a profound effect on the Court and the nation; and

WHEREAS, as it celebrates its 225th anniversary, the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at The College of William and Mary is now home to some 600 law students and a faculty of 32 full-time professors and more than 60 adjunct professors; and

WHEREAS, the Marshall-Wythe School of Law faculty includes some of the nation's finest legal scholars in such areas as constitutional and criminal law; and

WHEREAS, the law school plans a 2007 completion of a project to renovate the existing law library and to add a technologically advanced library expansion, evidence of the continued vitality of the institution; and

WHEREAS, the Marshall-Wythe School of Law, the first law school in America, is well positioned to understand and meet the challenges of remaining a first-class educational institution in the 21st century; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at The College of William and Mary on the occasion of its 225th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Law School Dean Taylor Reveley as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and best wishes.