HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 119

Designating the Town of Middletown as the "Gateway to the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park."

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, January 27, 2006 Agreed to by the Senate, February 28, 2006

WHEREAS, the Town of Middletown, founded in 1796, is rich in cultural history and hosts the Wayside Inn, the oldest continuously operating tavern in the United States of America, as well as the Wayside Theater, Virginia's second oldest professional theater; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Middletown is home to the 3500-acre Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park, designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1969; and

WHEREAS, the October 1864 Battle of Cedar Creek was a major event of the American Civil War and the history of this country; and

WHEREAS, Cedar Creek National Battlefield has been recognized by the 107th Congress as the most significant Civil War resource in the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District; and

WHEREAS, Belle Grove Plantation, an 18th-century grain and livestock farm that retains its original limestone house built in 1797, has been designated a National Trust Historic Property; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Middletown sits at the juncture of Interstates 81 and 66 at the northern entrance to the historic Shenandoah Valley, just 55 minutes from our nation's capital; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Town of Middletown be designated as the "Gateway to the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park."