

## 2006 SESSION

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### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 163

Offered January 11, 2006

*Commending the Virginia Living Museum.*

Patrons—Hamilton, BaCote, Oder and Rapp; Senators: Locke, Norment and Williams

WHEREAS, the Junior Nature Museum and Planetarium in Newport News was launched in 1966 as a community project, spearheaded by the Warwick Rotary Club and the Junior League of Hampton Roads, to help children and adults learn to cherish living things and develop a genuine desire to protect and preserve our natural heritage; and

WHEREAS, the museum became the first living museum east of the Mississippi in 1987, changing its name to the Virginia Living Museum; and

WHEREAS, in 2004 the Virginia Living Museum completed a \$22.6 million expansion to serve more constituents with science education programs and exhibits, introducing visitors to more plants and animals than would be encountered in a lifetime of outdoor adventures in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, during the past 40 years, the Virginia Living Museum has reached more than 2 million students with hands-on science education programs that are correlated to Virginia's Standards of Learning and these programs help to attract students to the sciences; and

WHEREAS, since 1966 the Virginia Living Museum, through its exhibits, programs and activities, has shared the wonder of nature with more than 4 million visitors and has taken a leadership role in educating visitors about ways to conserve valuable natural resources; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend the Virginia Living Museum for its 40 years of outstanding service to the citizens of the Commonwealth, promoting a better understanding of the delicate balance of the natural world; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Virginia Living Museum with best wishes for its continued success.

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