HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 184

Designating May 1, in 2006 and in each succeeding year, as Cold War Victory Day in Virginia.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, January 30, 2006 Agreed to by the Senate, February 28, 2006

WHEREAS, the Cold War (September 2, 1945, to December 26, 1991) was a long and costly struggle for freedom between the forces of democratic nations, led by the United States, and the tyranny and brutality of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; and

WHEREAS, the Cold War began after World War II in response to the threat of domination in Europe and Asia by communist ideology and military action; and

WHEREAS, this unique war was marked by periodic confrontations between West and East, including international crises such as the Berlin Airlift in 1948, the Korean War, 1950-1953, the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962, and the Vietnam War, 1960-1975; and

WHEREAS, convinced that a nuclear war could not be won, and greatly aided by the escalating decline of the Soviet Union, President Ronald Reagan implored the Soviets to give an unmistakable signal that would advance dramatically the cause of freedom and peace by tearing down the wall; and

WHEREAS, President Ronald Reagan waged the Cold War so aggressively that the threat of nuclear annihilation was abated, and ending the Cold War was among his greatest achievements; and

WHEREAS, the end of the longest undeclared war in United States history began with the fall of the Berlin Wall in November 1989 and culminated with the collapse of the Soviet Union's communist government in December 1991; and

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of Virginia veterans valiantly served in our nation's armed forces during this long conflict, with many sacrificing their lives; and

WHEREAS, the Cold War Veterans Association, a federally recognized veterans service organization with many members in Virginia, has identified May 1 as an appropriate day to commemorate our victory in the Cold War; now, therefore, be it

RÉSOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly designate May 1, in 2006 and in each succeeding year, as Cold War Victory Day in Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit a copy of this resolution to the chairman of the Cold War Veterans Association, requesting that he further disseminate copies of this resolution to his constituents so that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly in this matter; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates post the designation of this day on the General Assembly's website.