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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 291

Offered January 25, 2008

Commending the Richmond Area Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

Patrons—Cox, Hall, Ingram, Janis, Loupassi, Massie, Nixon, O'Bannon, Suit and Ware, R.L.; Senators: Martin, Stosch and Watkins

WHEREAS, the Richmond Area Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) was founded in the City of Richmond on December 3, 1958, for the purposes of promoting and preserving the rights and benefits of members of the military and veterans communities of the Commonwealth and the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond Area Chapter of the MOAA, in conjunction with the Virginia Council of Chapters of the MOAA, has displayed commendable leadership and commitment in its promotion of numerous state legislative initiatives that have been of great benefit to the military and veterans communities; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond Area Chapter of the MOAA has supported the increased staffing, reorganization, and funding of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services and the development of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond Area Chapter of the MOAA has supported funding for the construction of veterans care centers in Richmond and Hampton Roads, veterans cemeteries in Suffolk County and Southwest Virginia, a Fisher House residence at the McGuire Veterans Medical Center, and an education center located at the Virginia War Memorial; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond Area Chapter of the MOAA has supported enhanced programs and services for the Virginia National Guard and Reserves, including the implementation of a network of Family Support Centers for dependents of deployed troops; entitlement to in-state tuition rates for nonresident active duty military personnel and their dependents domiciled in Virginia; development of a comprehensive federal, state, and private healthcare initiative for the treatment of posttraumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury in combat-wounded troops; as well as exemptions from state income taxes for military-deployed Virginia residents and from county real estate taxes for 100-percent disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond Area Chapter of the MOAA has conducted visits to numerous senior living facilities to assist military retirees, survivors, and veterans in accessing their earned military benefits through The Richmond Officer Outreach Program known as TROOP; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond Area Chapter of the MOAA has provided essential support to Virginia high school students enrolled in the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps through presentation of annual leadership awards and the funding of the Colonel Melville A. Drisko, Jr., Memorial College Scholarship Program; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond Area Chapter of the MOAA has made substantial monetary contributions to promote the morale, welfare, and rehabilitation of deployed, returning, and combat-wounded troops through its Military Community Assistance Program; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend and congratulate the members, past and present, of the Richmond Area Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America for their 50 years of outstanding service to the military and veterans communities of the Commonwealth of Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Richmond Area Chapter of the MOAA as an expression of the General Assembly's gratitude to the organization for its dedication to the members of the military and veterans communities of the Commonwealth and the nation.

INTRODUCED

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