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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 594

Offered March 3, 2008

Commending Our Military Kids, Inc.

Patrons—Vanderhye, Moran, Abbitt, Albo, Alexander, Amundson, Armstrong, BaCote, Barlow, Bouchard, Bowling, Brink, Bulova, Byron, Caputo, Carrico, Cline, Cole, Crockett-Stark, Dance, Ebbin, Englin, Fralin, Frederick, Gear, Gilbert, Griffith, Hall, Hamilton, Hogan, Howell, A.T., Howell, W.J., Hull, Ingram, Janis, Joannou, Johnson, Jones, D.C., Jones, S.C., Kilgore, Landes, Lewis, Lingamfelter, Loupassi, Marsden, Marshall, R.G., Massie, Mathieson, May, McClellan, Melvin, Miller, J.H., Miller, P.J., Morgan, Morrissey, Nichols, Nixon, Nutter, O'Bannon, Orrock, Peace, Phillips, Plum, Poindexter, Poisson, Pollard, Purkey, Putney, Saxman, Scott, J.M., Shannon, Sherwood, Shuler, Sickles, Spruill, Suit, Toscano, Tyler, Valentine, Ward, Ware, R.L., Watts and Wright; Senators: Barker, Howell, Petersen, Ticer and Whipple

WHEREAS, there are nearly 95,000 National Guard and Reserve troops deployed in the war on terrorism and 3,265 of them have served or are currently serving in our Virginia units; and

WHEREAS, nationally there are more than 70,000 school-age children, ages five to 18 years of age, and 2,100 Virginia school-age children directly affected by the deployment of National Guard or Reserve parents to serve in the war on terrorism; and

WHEREAS, in 2004 Our Military Kids, Inc., was founded by Linda Davidson and Gail Kruzel in McLean, Virginia, to ensure that children of military families receive the support they urgently need while they cope with the deployment of parents by providing, through the use of grants, essential extracurricular activities and programs for school-age children of deployed Reserve and National Guard members; and

WHEREAS, Our Military Kids, Inc., received its 501(c)(3) status in early 2005 and initiated a pilot program with a Virginia National Guard Unit in Winchester; and

WHEREAS, since 2005, Our Military Kids, Inc., has provided more than \$827,000 in grants, enabling more than 2,300 children of guardsmen and reservists in 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia to participate in sports, tutoring, and fine arts programs; and

WHEREAS, in May 2007, General David Petraeus, the United States Army Commanding General of the Multinational Force in Iraq, personally thanked Our Military Kids, Inc., for its work and support of National Guard and Reserve troops' families; and

WHEREAS, April is officially designated by the United States Congress as National Month of the Military Child, honoring the sacrifices made by the military; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend and congratulate Our Military Kids, Inc., for its outstanding programs and support for the children of military personnel; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Our Military Kids, Inc., as an expression of the General Assembly's gratitude to the organization for its commitment to our military families that sacrifice so much to serve and protect the Commonwealth and the nation.

INTRODUCED

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