

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 271

Commending and expressing appreciation to the hosts, planners, organizers, volunteers, and sponsors involved in Jamestown 2007.

Agreed to by the Senate, March 6, 2008

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 7, 2008

WHEREAS, 2007 marked the 400th Anniversary of the founding of the first permanent English settlement in America at Jamestown, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, to mark this momentous occasion, an 18-month commemoration commenced in May 2006, with the launch of the replica of the *Godspeed* for an 80-day, six-city tour of the East Coast; the commemoration included 10 signature events and many coordinated events throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, in February 2006, retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor agreed to serve as Honorary National Chairwoman for Jamestown 2007; Justice O'Connor took an active role throughout the commemoration attending events, serving on panels, accompanying dignitaries, and bringing instant credibility through her stature; and

WHEREAS, the commemoration's success was dependent upon the generous contributions of many sponsors and benefactors; Norfolk Southern, the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, and Verizon served as Founding Colony Sponsors; Anheuser-Busch was a Chesapeake Donor; AirTran, Dominion, James City County, Philip Morris USA, SunTrust, and Ferguson were Legacy Sponsors; and TowneBank, Consol Energy, CNX Gas, McGuire Woods, and Lockheed Martin served as Participating Sponsors; and

WHEREAS, the signature events of Jamestown 2007 included the 225th Anniversary of the surrender at Yorktown in October 2006; Jamestown Live!, an international webcast for students to learn of the history and legacies of Jamestown; the Smithsonian Festival of Folklife on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., focusing on the Roots of Virginia Culture; and the Journey up the James with a sail along the James River of the replicas of the original ships that brought settlers to Jamestown; and

WHEREAS, the first commemoration to explore the experiences of all three of the cultures that intersected at Jamestown, the 2007 commemoration had signature events focused on the experiences of Native Americans and African Americans; these events included a Virginia Indian Symposium, the State of the Black Union hosted by Tavis Smiley, and the Virginia Black Expo; and

WHEREAS, the premiere event of the commemoration was America's Anniversary Weekend that was held May 11-13, 2007, and featured exhibits, vendors, musical performances, and cultural events, and culminated with a visit from President George W. Bush; and

WHEREAS, throughout the commemoration, Jamestown received visits from a multitude of national and international dignitaries: President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney each visited on multiple occasions; Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness Prince Philip made a historic visit to Virginia in May 2007, returning 50 years after visiting Jamestown for its 350th Anniversary in 1957; Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court John Roberts and other distinguished jurists visited to commemorate the origins of the rule of law in America that began at Jamestown; and members of the United States Cabinet, United States Congress, and Virginia government participated in many events; and

WHEREAS, the "America's 400th Anniversary" provided Virginia with significant earned media and public attention, increased visitation and tourism to Virginia, and led to record attendance at the Jamestown sites in 2007; and

WHEREAS, the success of Jamestown was due to the participation and coordination of many entities in the Historic Triangle working together through the Historic Triangle Host Committee; the participating groups included Busch Gardens, The College of William and Mary, the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Historic Jamestowne, Jamestown 2007, Jamestown Settlement, the National Park Service, Yorktown Battlefield, the Yorktown Victory Center, Water Country USA, and the local governments of James City and York Counties and the City of Williamsburg; and

WHEREAS, the entire commemoration was led by Jamestown 2007 Steering Committee, a sub-agency of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, which was led by Chairman Stuart W. Connock, Vice-Chairman Colin G. Campbell, and Executive Director Jeanne Zeidler; Jamestown 2007 and its dedicated staff coordinated many of the signature events, oversaw the community partners program, and generated media and press attention for the commemoration; and

WHEREAS, the Jamestown 2007 Federal Commission was formed by the United States Congress in 2000 to coordinate the national recognition of Jamestown, coordinate with the federal government, and oversee relations with foreign governments; the Federal Commission was led by Chairman Frank B.

Atkinson, Vice-Chairmen Nancy N. Campbell and H. Benson Dendy III, Executive Director Horace Mann, and their staff; among their other duties, they organized the World Forum on the Future of Democracy, the final signature event of the commemoration; and

WHEREAS, the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation welcomed a record number of visitors to Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center in 2007; they hosted the "World of 1607" exhibition in the Jamestown Settlement gallery to place the founding of Jamestown in a global context; and Executive Director Philip G. Emerson and his staff were instrumental in coordinating events at the Settlement and ensuring the success of the overall commemoration; and

WHEREAS, Historic Jamestowne attracted visitors from around the world to see the archaeological excavation of and artifacts from the original James Fort discovered by Dr. William M. Kelso; Historic Jamestowne is operated as a joint venture by the National Park Service and the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities under the leadership of Dan Smith and Elizabeth S. Kostelny, respectively; and

WHEREAS, the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation provided extraordinary support, assistance, and expertise throughout the commemoration; they hosted events at their facilities, offered logistical support, and provided valuable in-kind contributions; and

WHEREAS, the commemoration proved a great success attracting more than 2.5 million visitors for the signature events; Jamestown 2007 generated over seven billion media impressions in the United States alone; and the commemoration was supported by the efforts of 3,500 volunteers from 21 states who contributed 26,000 hours of service; and

WHEREAS, more than 180 communities from every part of Virginia signed up to be community partners; these communities saluted the 400th Anniversary by hosting events and programs to highlight its history and culture; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the efforts of so many hosts, planners, organizers, volunteers, and sponsors, everyone attending the commemoration was able to enjoy true Virginia hospitality while learning about the origins of our nation and the lasting legacies of Jamestown; and

WHEREAS, the impact of Jamestown 2007 will be long felt in the Historic Triangle, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and throughout this nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend and express appreciation to the hosts, planners, organizers, volunteers, and sponsors of Jamestown 2007 for their hard work and commitment to making 2007 a memorable and successful year; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare copies of this resolution for presentation to those individuals and organizations involved as an expression of the General Assembly's appreciation and recognition of their many contributions and invaluable service during such a special event.