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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 806

Offered January 26, 2009

*Commending the shipbuilders of Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding.*

Patrons—Oder, Alexander, Armstrong, BaCote, Barlow, Bouchard, Brink, Cosgrove, Gear, Hamilton, Hargrove, Howell, A.T., Howell, W.J., Iaquinto, Ingram, Joannou, Jones, Knight, Lewis, Mathieson, Miller, P.J., Morgan, Pogge, Pollard, Purkey, Spruill, Tata, Valentine, Ward, Ware, R.L. and Watts; Senators: Blevins, Locke, Lucas, Miller, J.C., Miller, Y.B., Norment, Northam, Quayle, Ruff, Stolle and Wagner

WHEREAS, the shipbuilders of Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding are recognized for their delivery in 2009 of the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS *George H.W. Bush* (CVN 77), the tenth and final ship in the *Nimitz* class, to the United States Navy; and

WHEREAS, Northrop Grumman is the nation's sole designer, builder, and refueler of nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and has built every single ship of the class since the keel was laid for the USS *Nimitz* (CVN 68) in 1968; and

WHEREAS, the Newport News shipyard built the first United States Navy ship designed as an aircraft carrier, the USS *Ranger* (CV 4), which was launched in 1933; and 27 years later in 1960 the same company launched the world's first nuclear aircraft carrier, the USS *Enterprise* (CVN 65); and

WHEREAS, for more than 30 years, the Virginia-built *Nimitz* carriers and their air wings have given the United States and her allies an unchallenged ability to defend freedom and protect American interests on every ocean and continent, and *Nimitz*-class carriers will remain with the fleet for the next 50 years; and

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of Virginians and thousands of North Carolinians have spent five decades designing, building, and refueling *Nimitz*-class carriers, both inside the Newport News shipyard and at the hundreds of Virginia firms providing parts and supplies for the ships; and

WHEREAS, the next aircraft carrier, the USS *Gerald R. Ford* (CVN 78), will mark the start of a new class of warship that will include an enhanced flight deck, improved weapons movement, a new nuclear power plant, allowance for future technologies, and reduced manning; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend and congratulate the thousands of shipbuilders, suppliers, and associates of Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding in Virginia on the delivery of the USS *George H.W. Bush* and the completion of the historic *Nimitz* class; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the shipbuilders of Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding as an expression of the General Assembly's gratitude for the shipbuilder's many contributions to the nation's defense and best wishes for continued success in the future.

INTRODUCED

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