

## 2009 SESSION

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### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 847

Offered February 4, 2009

*Commending Timothy J. Gette.*

Patrons—Armstrong, Marshall, D.W. and Merricks; Senator: Reynolds

WHEREAS, Timothy J. Gette is recognized for his outstanding service to the citizens of the Commonwealth as the executive director of the Virginia Museum of Natural History; and

WHEREAS, Timothy Gette graduated from the Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas, and earned a master's degree from the University of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, Timothy J. Gette was appointed executive director of the Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH) in 2004 by the museum's board of trustees, after having served as chief operating officer of the Dallas Museum of Natural History; and

WHEREAS, under Timothy Gette's leadership, the Virginia Museum of Natural History became an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution in 2004; and

WHEREAS, since 1984, the Virginia Museum of Natural History had been housed in a 1920s-era former school building, and Timothy Gette led the museum's transition to a newly constructed state-of-the-art museum facility; and

WHEREAS, in 2004 construction began on a new purpose-built museum facility at 21 Starling Avenue in Martinsville; in 2005 the museum unveiled detailed designs for new permanent exhibits, and the VMNH Foundation launched a \$5 million capital campaign in support of the exhibits; and

WHEREAS, Timothy Gette led the building construction process, as well as the permanent exhibits design and fabrication development, and the museum collaborated with international exhibit designers to develop world-class exhibits; and

WHEREAS, Timothy Gette was instrumental in the new, world-class Virginia Museum of Natural History facility in Martinsville opening to the public on March 31, 2007, the year of the 400th Anniversary of the founding of Jamestown; and

WHEREAS, due to the superb leadership of Timothy Gette, the Virginia Museum of Natural History has evolved into a cutting edge museum facility with top-notch exhibits, research labs, classrooms, and collections storage areas; and

WHEREAS, under Timothy Gette's direction, the Virginia Museum of Natural History has excelled in accomplishing its mission to interpret Virginia's natural heritage within a global context in ways that are relevant to all citizens of the Commonwealth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend and congratulate Timothy J. Gette for his outstanding service to the citizens of the Commonwealth as the executive director of the Virginia Museum of Natural History; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Timothy J. Gette as an expression of the General Assembly's appreciation of his many achievements and his dedication to preserving Virginia's glorious heritage for all to enjoy.

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