

2009 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 986

Offered February 20, 2009

Commending Allen Bell and Chris Bell.

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

WHEREAS, Allen Bell and Chris Bell, brothers from Henry County, are commended for extraordinary heroism; and

WHEREAS, in the early morning hours of January 14, 2009, the Bell brothers left Dell Computer in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, after working the night shift and were on their way back to their homes when they saw a fire and decided to take a closer look; and

WHEREAS, as they got closer, Allen Bell and Chris Bell, sons of retired Martinsville Fire Department Captain David Bell, were shocked to discover a brick ranch-style house engulfed in flames and no fire or EMS crews at the scene; and

WHEREAS, Allen Bell quickly called 911 as he and Chris Bell ran up to the front door where they could hear a blaring smoke alarm and someone unlocking the front door; and

WHEREAS, the man who answered the door did not speak English but the woman with him advised that not only were there other adults in the house, but a young child and infant; and

WHEREAS, Allen Bell stayed at the front door and helped usher the family out of the house while Chris Bell, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, bravely entered the home to make sure everyone had left; and

WHEREAS, the Bell brothers helped six adults, one child, and one infant exit the house safely; 21 minutes after they first spotted the flames, the house was lifted off its foundation by an explosion caused by a back draft; and

WHEREAS, the Bell brothers' quick thinking and brave actions prevented what could have been a horrific tragedy for the family living in the house; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend Allen Bell and Chris Bell for helping to save the lives of eight people from a house fire; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Allen Bell and Chris Bell as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for their heroic actions.

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