

2010 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 266

Offered February 11, 2010

Commending Virginia Task Force 2.

Patrons—Villanueva, Cosgrove, Howell, A.T., Iaquinto, Knight, Purkey, Stolle and Tata; Senators:
Blevins, McWaters, Miller, Y.B., Northam and Wagner

WHEREAS, Virginia Task Force 2, an elite urban search and rescue team sponsored by the Virginia Beach Fire Department, was activated for deployment on January 13, 2010, to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in response to the devastating 7.0 earthquake that hit the country on January 12; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Task Force 2 arrived in Haiti late on January 15, 2010, and on January 16, 2010, began searching for survivors in conjunction with a task force from New York; and

WHEREAS, on January 17, 2010, Virginia Task Force 2 was able to drop a tube to a survivor trapped in the collapsed United Nations Building so he could receive water; almost eight hours later, team members were able to pull the survivor out of the rubble; and

WHEREAS, on January 19, 2010, Virginia Task Force 2 team members were also able to save two children trapped in a collapsed residential building; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Task Force 2 is a specialized team of approximately 200 members organized and managed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and

WHEREAS, highly trained team members have been deployed in response to various natural disasters and were deployed to the Pentagon on September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, a world class urban rescue team, Virginia Task Force 2 is comprised of firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, dog handlers, engineers, and physicians from cities and counties in the South Hampton Roads area; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Virginia Task Force 2 for its readiness and response to the Haitian earthquake; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Virginia Task Force 2 as an expression of the General Assembly's respect, admiration, and gratitude for the team's readiness and service in times of crisis.

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