

2011 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 906

Offered February 16, 2011

Commending the Military Aviation Museum.

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

WHEREAS, the Military Aviation Museum, located in Virginia Beach, provides visitors with the unique opportunity to view rare restored aircraft; and

WHEREAS, the Military Aviation Museum began when Gerald and Elaine Yagen decided to share their love and collection of vintage aircraft with the public; and

WHEREAS, the couple's interest in antique aircraft had led them around the world and to their own backyard; their discoveries included a wrecked P-40E Warhawk recovered from Russia in pieces that they had shipped to Norfolk and a Chance Vought F4U Corsair stored in northern Virginia Beach that had flown off the USS *Intrepid* during the battle of Okinawa; and

WHEREAS, the remarkable collection includes more than 50 aircraft that have been lovingly restored to their former brilliance and are housed in an Art Deco styled structure reminiscent of the airplane hangars of the 1940s; and

WHEREAS, in 2011 the Military Aviation Museum plans to open a new World War I hangar, based on plans of a period airfield in England, that will house flying machines from the Great War, including the British Avro 504 biplane and the red Fokker Dr.1 triplane of the infamous "Red Baron"; and

WHEREAS, as most of the aircraft are operational, the Military Aviation Museum hosts numerous events throughout the year that provide visitors with the opportunity to see the historic aircraft in flight; and

WHEREAS, the Military Aviation Museum, in conjunction with the Virginia Arts Festival, hosts The Flying Proms, where spectators can watch the aircraft while listening to classical tunes of the times performed by the Virginia Symphony Orchestra; the Museum also holds an annual Warbirds Over the Beach Air Show to entertain and educate visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Military Aviation Museum's efforts to preserve the treasured relics of the past provide residents and visitors to the Virginia Beach area a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the pivotal role aircraft played in the defense of our nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend the Military Aviation Museum for its exemplary efforts to preserve and restore historic aircraft and share the stories of the planes and their aviators with current and future generations; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Military Aviation Museum as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the Museum's commitment to preserving a unique part of the history of the Commonwealth and the nation.

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