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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 923

Offered February 17, 2011

*Commending Robert W. Dowd.*

Patrons—Marshall, D.W., Armstrong, Merricks and Poindexter; Senators: Reynolds and Stanley

WHEREAS, Robert W. Dowd, the executive director of the West Piedmont Planning District Commission, has announced his retirement on June 30, 2011; and

WHEREAS, a native of North Carolina, Robert Dowd received a bachelor's degree from North Carolina State University and a master's degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; and

WHEREAS, Robert Dowd began his exemplary career with the West Piedmont Planning District Commission in 1978, by developing a Comprehensive Energy Plan that received recognition from the American Planning Association; and

WHEREAS, ten years later, Robert Dowd became executive director of the West Piedmont Planning District Commission and has served in that capacity with great distinction; and

WHEREAS, Robert Dowd has played a pivotal role in the development of Smith Mountain Lake, overseeing the organization and writing of the Smith Mountain Lake Shoreline Management Plan, which led to the establishment of the Smith Mountain Lake Policy Advisory Board, a precursor of today's Tri-County Lake Administrative Commission; and

WHEREAS, Robert Dowd has been an instrumental figure in updating the comprehensive plans for Franklin, Pittsylvania, and Patrick Counties as well as the City of Martinsville; and

WHEREAS, through Robert Dowd's efforts, the West Piedmont Planning District has been established as an Economic Development District, which qualifies the region to receive federal funding for economic development projects; and

WHEREAS, Robert Dowd has also served as administrator of the Danville (Pittsylvania) Metropolitan Planning Organization since 1987, creating long-range transportation plans, access management plans, and numerous corridor studies; and

WHEREAS, an able administrator and exemplary leader, Robert Dowd has worked with staff, local citizens, and government officials to balance the needs of local government with state and federal guidelines and requirements, using the latest technology as it has become available; and

WHEREAS, Robert Dowd has played a vital role in the growth and development of Franklin, Henry, Patrick, and Pittsylvania Counties; the Cities of Danville and Martinsville; and the Town of Rocky Mount for more than three decades; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend Robert W. Dowd for his distinguished service on the occasion of his retirement; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Robert W. Dowd as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and deep appreciation for his many years of service to the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED

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