

2011 SESSION

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 394

Offered January 20, 2011

Commending Bland County on the occasion of its 150th anniversary.

Patron—Puckett

WHEREAS, the proud citizens of Bland County will joyfully celebrate the county's historic 150th anniversary on March 30, 2011; and

WHEREAS, formed from parts of three other counties in 1861, Bland County holds a unique place in Virginia history as it is the only county that was formed during the Civil War while Virginia was a member of the Confederate States of America; and

WHEREAS, Bland County, the land between the tunnels, is located in beautiful Southwest Virginia between two long interstate tunnels, Big Walker Mountain and East River Mountain; and

WHEREAS, Bland County has more miles of the Appalachian Trail than any other county and contains more than 76,970 acres of the Jefferson National Forest; and

WHEREAS, Bland County is also the site of the Wolf Creek Indian Village, which contains a Native American museum and archaeological site that educates visitors about the first inhabitants of the area; and

WHEREAS, the rugged and majestic mountain landscape of Bland County is inhabited by residents who are known for their fierce spirit of independence and strong work ethic; and

WHEREAS, Bland County inhabitants reside in many different communities, including Bland, Bastian, Ceres, Dry Fork, Grapefield, Hicksville, Hollybrook, Little Creek, Mechanicsburg, Pinch Creek, Pumpkin Center, Rocky Gap, and Round Bottom; and

WHEREAS, Bland County children and youth attend four small schools where they are known by name and given a high quality education to allow them to excel in their endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Bland County, with several exits off of Interstate 77, is an excellent location for business and is the home of several well-established manufacturing firms; the county also has many productive farms and a state penitentiary; and

WHEREAS, Bland County attracts visitors and residents alike with its County Fair in August and annual Festival of Leaves on the second weekend of October; and

WHEREAS, the inhabitants of Bland County enjoy a beautiful place to live and look forward to celebrating the county's history and successes in 2011; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly commend Bland County on the occasion of its 150th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Henry Blessing, chairman of the Bland County Board of Supervisors, as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and appreciation of Bland County's rich heritage and contributions to the Commonwealth.

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