

2011 SESSION

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 427

Offered February 2, 2011

Commending the Town of Strasburg on the occasion of its 250th anniversary.

Patron—Obenshain

WHEREAS, the proud citizens of the Town of Strasburg will celebrate their historic community's 250th anniversary in 2011; and

WHEREAS, the present-day location of the Town of Strasburg has a rich history that reaches far back in time to when Native American communities flourished before the arrival of European settlers in the eighteenth century; and

WHEREAS, as German settlers moved west, they were drawn to the beautiful and scenic Shenandoah Valley, where they established an early settlement known as Staufferstadt, which grew over the years to include homesteads, businesses, churches, and schools; and

WHEREAS, less than five miles west of the early town settlement are the Allegheny Mountains, which in the mid-eighteenth century were the border between British and French territories as well as the boundary for spacious lands beyond claimed by rival Native American nations; and

WHEREAS, in November 1761, the Virginia General Assembly granted the Town of Strasburg a charter stating, ". . . the erecting [of] towns on the frontiers of this colony may prove of great benefit and advantage to the inhabitants . . . which will enable them the better to defend themselves on any sudden incursions of an enemy"; and

WHEREAS, located in the midst of rich farmland, the Town of Strasburg produced wheat, grain, and other agricultural products while limestone extraction and pottery-making also contributed to the strong economic base; and

WHEREAS, the advent of the Civil War changed the Town of Strasburg dramatically, due in part to such events as the Great Train Raid of 1861, which will be reenacted as one of the first major commemorative events of the American Civil War Sesquicentennial, and will take place in the town in May 2011; and

WHEREAS, today, residents of the Town of Strasburg continue to partake in a high quality of life marked by a strong community spirit and local amenities that include beautiful scenery, close proximity to the nation's capital, and a rich heritage; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Strasburg looks forward to celebrating its 250th anniversary by hosting celebrations, lectures, programs, and activities throughout the year for local residents and visitors to enjoy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly commend the Town of Strasburg on the occasion of its 250th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the mayor of the Town of Strasburg, Timothy Taylor, as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and best wishes for the town's continued success and prosperity.

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