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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 276

Offered January 26, 2012

*Commending United Auto Workers Local 2069.*

Patron—Rush

WHEREAS, the United Auto Workers Local 2069, proudly headquartered in Dublin, Virginia, has honored the nation's veterans by participating in the annual POW/MIA Rolling Thunder motorcycle rally for the last 20 years; and

WHEREAS, the UAW Local 2069 Veterans Committee also welcomes the public to its Ride for Freedom Memorial Ceremony/Run to the Wall to join in the patriotic send-off to the bikers and the group's tribute to members of the military; and

WHEREAS, members of the UAW Local 2069 Veterans Committee hosted the 2011 public send-off ceremony on the grounds of the union hall near the New River Valley Volvo Trucks North America plant; and

WHEREAS, the 2011 tribute, which took place early in the morning of May 28, 2011, included introduction of veterans from the New River Valley who have served in all of the country's recent conflicts as far back as World War II; and

WHEREAS, the send-off ceremony featured a moving rendition of "Amazing Grace" played on bagpipes, a cannon salute, and a keynote speech by Colonel Dennis Cochrane, USA Ret., former commander of the United States Army ROTC programs at Virginia Tech and Radford University; and

WHEREAS, the group of approximately 100 bikers from the New River Valley who then traveled to Washington, D.C., included union members and others who wanted to take part in this moving tribute to the nation's veterans; and

WHEREAS, Mark Peterson, one of Local 2069's original bikers on the 1991 trip, also made the 2011 journey; once the group arrived in Washington, they visited the nation's war memorials, including the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend United Auto Workers Local 2069 on the 20th anniversary of participating in the UAW Veterans Ride for Freedom Memorial Ceremony/Run to the Wall; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to United Auto Workers Local 2069 as an expression of the General Assembly's gratitude and appreciation for its steadfast commitment to all who have served this country.

INTRODUCED

HJ276