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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 291

Offered January 30, 2012

Commending the City of Charlottesville on its 250th anniversary.

Patron—Toscano; Senator: Deeds

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville proudly celebrates its historic 250th anniversary in 2012; and
WHEREAS, the history of Charlottesville reaches back in time to when Monacan Indians resided in
a town known as Monasukapanough, located five miles north of the present center of the city; and

WHEREAS, travelers came to the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains via Three Notch'd, or Three
Chopt, Road, which followed an Indian trading path; and

WHEREAS, by the mid-1700s, many early settlers had received patents for land in Albemarle
County, in which the village of Charlottesville would later be formed; and

WHEREAS, in 1762, one year after the division of Albemarle County to form several new counties,
Charlottesville was founded by an Act of the General Assembly to be Albemarle's county seat, with a
gridded town plan that included a public square with a courthouse; and

WHEREAS, as the town's population grew, enterprising citizens opened businesses around the
courthouse, as other neighborhoods such as Vinegar Hill, Belmont, Starr Hill, and Fifeville eventually
developed in other spots among the hilly terrain; and

WHEREAS, in 1819 Thomas Jefferson founded the University of Virginia west of the town, aiding
in a gradual expansion of population and business activity to Main Street and westward; and

WHEREAS, Charlottesville underwent more growth and expansion when the predecessor lines of
what became the Chesapeake & Ohio and Southern Railroads came to the area in the mid-1800s; and

WHEREAS, Charlottesville held its first mayoral election in 1854, endured the Civil War relatively
unscathed, and, importantly, was incorporated as an independent city in 1888; and

WHEREAS, the twentieth century brought a renewed era of expansion and prosperity to
Charlottesville, while the purchase and restoration of Monticello by the Thomas Jefferson Memorial
Foundation helped draw tourists to the area; and

WHEREAS, today, the City of Charlottesville consistently ranks as one of the top places in America
to live, work, and retire; boasts one of the top universities in the nation; and has proximity to the Blue
Ridge Mountains for outdoors enthusiasts, as well as artists' studios and entertainment venues that draw
residents and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Charlottesville have planned a yearlong series of community events to
commemorate their rich history and celebrate their diverse citizenry; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby
commend the City of Charlottesville on the occasion of its historic 250th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution
for presentation to Satyendra Huja, mayor of the City of Charlottesville, as an expression of the General
Assembly's appreciation of the City's rich history and best wishes for a bright and prosperous future for
all its citizens.

INTRODUCED

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