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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 43

Offered March 1, 2012

*Commending the Lenoid and Bessie Fowlkes family.*

Patrons—Peace and Hodges

WHEREAS, the Lenoid and Bessie Fowlkes family from King William County have collectively rendered decades of service to the country; and

WHEREAS, as a young couple in the 1940s, Lenoid and Bessie Fowlkes raised their four sons, Bobby, Johnny, Reginald, and George Sterling, on their farm in King William County; and

WHEREAS, the young boys enjoyed summers in the woods with their friends, building huts, swimming in creeks, and playing in hay barns; Bobby, a Boy Scout, once saved the life of a neighborhood boy when he seriously cut his foot; and

WHEREAS, Lenoid and Bessie Fowlkes provided a stable, loving home for their sons and raised them to take responsibility for their actions and serve those around them; and

WHEREAS, from this humble but firm foundation, Bobby, Johnny, Reginald, and George Sterling all went on to proudly serve their country, compiling a remarkable 90 years of service among them; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Fowlkes joined the United States Navy and spent 22 years as a nuclear submarine guided missile technician and instructor; and

WHEREAS, Johnny Fowlkes joined the United States Navy and spent 22 years as a naval fighter pilot, flying over 50 missions into enemy territory during the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, Reginald Fowlkes joined the United States Navy and served as an aviation technician for many years before transferring to the United States Air Force and concluding his career with a combined total of 21 years of service; and

WHEREAS, George Sterling Fowlkes joined the United States Air Force and spent 25 years as an aviation technician; and

WHEREAS, the four brothers, two of whom are now deceased, honorably served their country for many decades while maintaining strong family ties; and

WHEREAS, the Lenoid and Bessie Fowlkes family epitomizes the selfless contributions that countless American families make to this country and to the well-being of society; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the Lenoid and Bessie Fowlkes family from King William County hereby be commended for their exemplary military service to the nation; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Lenoid and Bessie Fowlkes family as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration and respect for the family's strong tradition of service to the country.