HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 608

Designating August 14, in 2013 and in each succeeding year, as Pakistan Independence Day in Virginia.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, January 25, 2013 Agreed to by the Senate, February 19, 2013

WHEREAS, August 14 marks the anniversary of Pakistan's independence from the United Kingdom; and

WHEREAS, on August 14, 1947, Pakistan was declared a sovereign nation, ending the rule of the British Raj; and

WHEREAS, the anniversary is marked by Pakistani people around the world with special ceremonies and festivities; and

WHEREAS, for the past 26 years, the Pakistani-American community of Northern Virginia has gathered together to celebrate the anniversary of Pakistan's independence; and

WHEREAS, in 2012 the Pakistan Independence Day Festival welcomed thousands of individuals to Bull Run Regional Park in Centreville; and

WHEREAS, attendees had the opportunity to sample a wide array of delectable Pakistani foods, such as kabobs, biryani, and haleem; hear pop and folk music from well-known Pakistani artists; and enjoy hot air balloon rides, pony rides, shopping, and a fashion show; and

WHEREAS, the observance of Pakistan Independence Day provides an opportunity to learn about the rich history, accomplishments, and traditions of the Pakistani people; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly designate August 14, in 2013 and in each succeeding year, as Pakistan Independence Day in Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates post the designation of this day on the General Assembly's website.