

## 2013 SESSION

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### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 618

Offered January 9, 2013

Prefiled January 7, 2013

*Commending First Night Williamsburg.*

Patron—Watson

WHEREAS, First Night Williamsburg, an annual New Year's Eve event, celebrated its 20th anniversary at the 2012 - 2013 event; and

WHEREAS, Jim McCord, a College of William and Mary professor, brought the First Night franchise to Williamsburg in 1993; it has delighted over 120,000 attendees since its establishment; and

WHEREAS, every year, 300 - 400 volunteers converge on Williamsburg to help construct an elaborate network of signs, stages, and amenities; over 11 entities methodically clear away snow; and up to 26 electric light carts blaze to life; and

WHEREAS, First Night Williamsburg features over 45 family-friendly shows and performers, including many local acts, filling the night with the sounds of tinkling hand bells, wailing jazz, or melodious folk music; and

WHEREAS, concluding with a magnificent fireworks display for more than 3,500 attendees at Zable Stadium, First Night Williamsburg never fails to ring in the new year with a bang; and

WHEREAS, First Night Williamsburg invigorates the community, offering a merry place to start the year among friends; and

WHEREAS, the continued success of First Night Williamsburg is a testament to the hard work of the board of directors and the gracious contributions of all partners; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend First Night Williamsburg on the occasion of its 20th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Robert Braxton, the president of the Board of Directors of First Night Williamsburg, as an expression of the General Assembly's appreciation for 20 years of this cheerful Williamsburg tradition.

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