

2013 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 824

Offered February 1, 2013

Commending The Montpelier Foundation.

Patrons—Scott, E.T. and Peace

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2013, the nation will celebrate the 200th anniversary of James Madison's second inauguration as President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, James Madison, more than any other single individual, successfully engineered the framing and ratifying of the Constitution that has ensured the freedom, peace, and prosperity this nation has enjoyed for more than two centuries; furthermore, in the first Congress, he served as chief architect and principal advocate for America's Bill of Rights, the 10 amendments that have protected those liberties retained by the people; and

WHEREAS, James Madison, as President, safeguarded that Constitution by resisting usurpation of power, a remarkable achievement considering that, as Commander in Chief, he navigated the ship of state through the treacherous waters of this nation's first war; and

WHEREAS, the inimitable Dolley Madison, by epitomizing Virginian hospitality and charm in the White House, has henceforth become a beloved exemplar of what a First Lady should be; and

WHEREAS, The Montpelier Foundation, with the encouragement and support of Orange County, the district that launched Mr. Madison's political career, has fulfilled and continues to fulfill its mission to preserve and promote the enduring legacy of President James Madison and his gracious wife, Dolley; and

WHEREAS, the Robert H. Smith Center for the Constitution at James Madison's Montpelier has, in its short 10 years of existence, become a leading hub for disseminating (in Mr. Madison's own words) "the history of a Constitution on which would be staked the happiness of a people great even in its infancy, and possibly the cause of Liberty throughout the world"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend The Montpelier Foundation for bringing to life the home and contributions of James and Dolley Madison; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Katherine L. "Kat" Imhoff, The Montpelier Foundation's president, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration and support for this institution's noble aims and notable achievements.

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