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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 345

Offered February 20, 2014

*Commending Fifth Baptist Church Veterans Ministry.*

Patron—McClellan

WHEREAS, in 2014, Fifth Baptist Church Veterans Ministry celebrates its fifth anniversary of providing assistance, support, advocacy, and pastoral services to the men and women who have bravely served in the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the main goal of the Fifth Baptist Church Veterans Ministry (FBCVM) is to assist veterans in applying for government benefits; it can be a complex and confusing task for many people, and the members of the Veterans Ministry help in any way possible; and

WHEREAS, the FBCVM meets at the church, which is on West Cary Street in Richmond; the ministry serves veterans and their spouses in applying for disability and entitlement assistance; the group also provides free notary services; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Ministry, which meets four times a year, has many programs to benefit those who have served our nation; the group hosts a yearly luncheon to honor military veterans, has held a veterans conference, and sponsors field trips to encourage a sense of camaraderie among its members; and

WHEREAS, the FBCVM also has an outreach effort for active duty military personnel; the group delivers snacks to members of the armed forces as they are arriving or leaving Richmond International Airport; and

WHEREAS, the FBCVM is an active participant in the fellowship and worship programs of Fifth Baptist Church; the group sponsors an annual drive to collect toiletries for men's emergency shelters in the area, supports the holiday Angel Tree project and a back-to-school supplies and shoe drive, and takes part in a food collection drive; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Ministry is a vibrant part of the life of Fifth Baptist Church and is active in the community; it is proud of its successful efforts to help veterans and their spouses, especially in their efforts to apply for and receive veteran's benefits and other entitlements; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Fifth Baptist Church Veterans Ministry on the occasion of its fifth anniversary and for providing assistance, support, advocacy, and pastoral services to the men and women of the armed forces who have admirably served the Commonwealth and the country; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Reverend Dr. Earl M. Brown and the Reverend Dr. Ricardo L. Brown, pastors of Fifth Baptist Church, as an expression of the General Assembly's respect and admiration for supporting and assisting veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

INTRODUCED

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