

14105469D

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 483

Offered March 3, 2014

Commending the Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District.

Patrons—Toscano, Bell, Richard P., Fariss and Landes; Senator: Deeds

WHEREAS, in 2014, the Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District celebrates 75 years of providing comprehensive and efficient natural resource assistance to Albemarle, Fluvanna, Louisa, and Nelson Counties and the City of Charlottesville; its mission is "to exercise leadership in promoting natural resource protection"; and

WHEREAS, soil and water conservation districts are self-governing divisions of state government; the groups develop programs and plans for conserving soil resources, controlling and preventing soil erosion, preventing floods, and determining how best to conserve, develop, utilize, and dispose of water; and

WHEREAS, the Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District (TJSWCD) was created in April 1939; the members are elected, and the first election for the directors of the TJSWCD was held the following month; today, the four counties and one city that compose the TJSWCD encompass 1,984 square miles and have a population of 220,000; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, the TJSWCD—along with the Commonwealth's other soil and water conservation districts—has focused on the control and prevention of nonpoint source water pollution; and

WHEREAS, the TJSWCD has two major watersheds—the James River watershed, which includes the Rivanna, Hardware, Rockfish, and Tye Rivers, and the York River watershed, which includes the North Anna, South Anna, and Little Rivers—whose resources are used and enjoyed by millions of Virginians; and

WHEREAS, the TJSWCD has a 12-member board of directors; the district provides agricultural and built environment conservation assistance, makes educational information available to the public, supports an easement program, and offers technical support to local governments; and

WHEREAS, the TJSWCD owns Secluded Farm, a 150-acre property near Monticello; it was given to the organization to be preserved as an open space and wildlife refuge, and an unusual 33-foot-tall Blackhaw viburnum grows there; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District on its 75th anniversary of providing comprehensive and efficient natural resource assistance to Albemarle, Fluvanna, Louisa, and Nelson Counties and the City of Charlottesville; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District as an expression of the General Assembly's respect and admiration for its dedication and tireless work to maintain and preserve the Commonwealth's natural resources for the benefit of all its citizens.

INTRODUCED

HJ483