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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 370

Offered February 23, 2015

Commending Farrar W. Howard, Jr.

Patrons—Norment; Delegate: Peace

WHEREAS, Farrar W. Howard, Jr., has served with distinction as sheriff of New Kent County since 1980, admirably representing the county for more than 35 years during a time of immense growth and technological change; he is the longest-serving active sheriff in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Farrar "Wakie" Howard, who was reared in Charles City County, graduated from the University of Richmond in 1975 and returned home to teach middle school before entering law enforcement; he was hired as a deputy sheriff in New Kent County in 1977; and

WHEREAS, when Wakie Howard was elected sheriff of New Kent County in 1979, he was the youngest sheriff in the Commonwealth; he has been reelected six times and is highly respected by his employees, fellow law-enforcement officers, and throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, Wakie Howard has ably served the Commonwealth; he is past president of the Virginia Sheriffs' Association and was chair of the association's Legislative Committee; he is a founding member and past chair of the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission; and

WHEREAS, Wakie Howard proudly helped the New Kent County Sheriff's Office achieve accreditation through the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission in 2003; in 2007, it became the first department in the state to achieve reaccreditation with no returns, and in 2011, it became the first department in the state to achieve a second reaccreditation with no returns; and

WHEREAS, additionally, Wakie Howard has been a member of the National Sheriffs' Association highway safety commission; he received a gubernatorial appointment to the Virginia Forensic Science Board and has served on numerous other state boards and commissions; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, at the urging of the employees of the New Kent County Sheriff's Office, the Board of Supervisors named the new sheriff's department facility the F.W. Howard, Jr. Law Enforcement Building, in honor of Wakie Howard's commitment and service to the people of New Kent County; and

WHEREAS, in addition to leading the New Kent County Sheriff's Office, Wakie Howard was a member of both the Providence Forge volunteer rescue squad and the Providence Forge volunteer fire department and has belonged to many other community organizations; and

WHEREAS, Wakie Howard is a strong supporter and advocate for the law-enforcement profession and has used his years of experience to promote training for law-enforcement professionals, support legislative initiatives, and work for the betterment of his community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Farrar W. Howard, Jr., sheriff of New Kent County, for his many years of service to the people of New Kent County and for his commitment to improving the law-enforcement profession; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Farrar W. Howard, Jr., as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration and respect for his years of dedication to furthering public safety in New Kent County and the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED

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