

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 272

Commending Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center, Inc.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 12, 2016
Agreed to by the Senate, February 18, 2016

WHEREAS, in 2016, Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center, Inc., in Appomattox celebrates 75 years of providing quality educational camping and natural resources programs to young people and adults from throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Holiday Lake was built in the 1930s by the Works Project Administration (WPA) as an emergency inland landing base for the United States Navy; cabins and other facilities were constructed nearby for the construction workers; and

WHEREAS, the size of the lake shrank to 150 acres after a cemetery was discovered on the site during the construction phase, making it too small to meet the Navy's needs; the infrastructure remained, however, and as early as 1940, Holiday Lake and the WPA camp were used by local 4-H groups; and

WHEREAS, in 1941, the Holiday Lake encampment officially became a 4-H camp; the original 19-acre site had 16 cabins, a dining hall, a kitchen, and two bath houses and served 4-H youth from the area; its mission is to improve the quality of life by educating youth and adults in a natural setting; and

WHEREAS, today, Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center is used by 4-H clubs in 17 counties and the Cities of Charlottesville and Lynchburg; it is located in the Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest, which is the largest state forest in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the objectives of the Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center are to provide year-round educational camping programs for 4-H members; offer natural resource programs to school groups, 4-H clubs, and adults; house a fully equipped Virginia 4-H Shooting Center; provide facilities and services for diverse groups from different areas; and monitor the effectiveness of its programs and revise them to meet the changing needs of its users; and

WHEREAS, Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center is home to an unusually intact WPA camp; the buildings that were constructed during the Great Depression have recently been approved to be placed on the Virginia Historic Landmarks Register, ensuring that the original character of the buildings will be preserved; and

WHEREAS, each year, more than 10,000 people benefit from programs and activities at the Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center; the Natural Resource Education programs are a primary focus at the center and include day and overnight trips where participants can learn hands-on about the outdoors; and

WHEREAS, Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center has several major partners who make many contributions to the center's programs: the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the College of Natural Resources and the Environment, both at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, the Virginia Department of Forestry, and the Virginia Department of Games and Inland Fisheries; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center, Inc., on the occasion of its 75th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center, Inc., as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and admiration for its valuable work to educate Virginians about the natural world around them.

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