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## **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 343**

Offered February 23, 2016

Commending the Falls Church News-Press.

Patrons-Simon and Kory; Senator: Saslaw

WHEREAS, the Falls Church News-Press, an independent weekly newspaper in Falls Church, has served the community for 25 years by providing local news and acting as the city's "paper of record"; and

WHEREAS, the *Falls Church News-Press* was founded in 1991 by Nicholas F. Benton, who presented a plan for a local paper to the Falls Church Chamber of Commerce; initially, 130 businesses pledged their support to the periodical, which has maintained its strong ties to the community; and

WHEREAS, with a free circulation of 10,000 copies, the *Falls Church News-Press* is delivered to the communities of Bailey's Crossroads, Sleepy Hollow, Pimmit Hills, and Lake Barcroft, as well as the City of Falls Church; and

WHEREAS, the Falls Church News-Press was named the Best Remnant of the Liberal Media by the Washington City Paper, has been twice named the City of Falls Church Business of the Year, and received the city's Business Contribution to the Community award; and

WHEREAS, committed to social justice, the Falls Church News-Press publishes a weekly column dedicated to gay and lesbian issues; and

WHEREAS, the *Falls Church News-Press* is an active partner in community affairs, sponsoring an annual food drive, an annual scholarship for high school seniors, a citywide holiday party, and other events and activities; and

WHEREAS, the Falls Church News-Press has succeeded thanks to the hard work of its columnists and staff, including Wayne Besen, Mike Hume, Tom Whipple, and Jody Fellows; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the *Falls Church News-Press* on the occasion of its 25th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Nicholas F. Benton, owner and editor-in-chief of the *Falls Church News-Press*, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the newspaper's many contributions to the Falls Church community.