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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 153

Offered February 11, 2016

Commending Law Enforcement United.

Patrons—DeSteph, Alexander, Barker, Black, Carrico, Chafin, Chase, Cosgrove, Dance, Deeds, Dunnavant, Ebbin, Edwards, Favola, Garrett, Hanger, Howell, Lewis, Locke, Marsden, McDougale, McEachin, McPike, Miller, Newman, Norment, Reeves, Ruff, Stanley, Stuart, Sturtevant, Vogel and Wagner; Delegates: Davis, Knight, Leftwich, Miyares, Rasoul, Stolle, Taylor and Villanueva

WHEREAS, Law Enforcement United, a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was founded in Virginia by active and retired local, state, and federal law-enforcement officers to honor the dedicated, unselfish service and sacrifices of those officers who have given their lives in the line of duty, as well as to provide support to their surviving family members; and

WHEREAS, although life insurance and "line of duty benefits" help cover final expenses, these funds are often not enough to cover all expenses, nor do they fill the void felt by the untimely loss of a loved one, and many families struggle to move beyond their grief; Law Enforcement United provides assistance to the Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.) Kids Camp for surviving children and educational resources for active duty officers to help prevent injuries and deaths; and

WHEREAS, Law Enforcement United is operated solely by volunteers and relies on charitable donations to support its annual "Road to Hope" event, an approximately 250-mile bicycle ride from Chesapeake to Washington, D.C., by 350 local, state, and federal law-enforcement officers and 120 support personnel from 29 states across the nation; and

WHEREAS, "Road to Hope" raises public awareness of fallen law-enforcement officers, and over a six-year period, the ride has raised donations of \$570,000 to C.O.P.S. and \$235,000 to Officer Down Memorial Page, a total of \$1.4 million, plus donations to the National Law Enforcement Officer Memorial and other charities; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, 129 officers across the nation made the ultimate sacrifice, amounting to one officer lost every 2.8 days; 42 of those deaths were the direct result of an act of violence against the officer; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Law Enforcement United for its work to honor the lives of those law-enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the course of their duties; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Law Enforcement United as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the organization's dedication to supporting the men and women who serve and protect the residents of the Commonwealth.