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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 44

Offered January 13, 2016

Prefiled January 6, 2016

*Commending the Virginia National Guard.*

Patrons—Reeves, Black, McDougle and Ruff; Delegates: Anderson, Carr and Cole

WHEREAS, the courageous soldiers and airmen of the Virginia National Guard have made outstanding and valuable contributions to the defense of the United States and the security of the Commonwealth and have advanced the cause of freedom around the world; and

WHEREAS, since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, more than 15,000 Virginia soldiers and airmen have served on active duty in support of Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and New Dawn, helping to maintain security in the United States and further the cause of freedom around the world; and

WHEREAS, in September 2015, the Winchester-based 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Bridge Combat Team was mobilized to Southwest Asia in support of ongoing overseas contingency operations and to provide force protection and security for critical installations; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia National Guard could not perform its mission without the support of the civilian workforce, families, employers, and community members; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia National Guard is recognized as one of the best in the nation in many critical areas and provides a ready, reliable, relevant, and rapidly responding force that deploys as directed by the Governor of Virginia to assist state and local authorities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Virginia National Guard and its dedicated soldiers, airmen, Virginia Defense Force members, and civilian employees for their devotion to duty and many outstanding and valuable contributions to the defense of the Commonwealth and the United States; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to General Timothy P. Williams, adjutant general of Virginia, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration and gratitude for the service and sacrifices of the patriotic soldiers, airmen, Virginia Defense Force members, and civilian employees of the Virginia National Guard.

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