

2016 SESSION

ENROLLED

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 86

Commending Smith Mountain Lake.

Agreed to by the Senate, March 11, 2016

WHEREAS, for 50 years, Smith Mountain Lake, nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, has been a place of respite and relaxation for thousands of sportsmen, water enthusiasts, and nature lovers; and

WHEREAS, Smith Mountain Lake was formed when Appalachian Power, which is a unit of American Electric Power, embarked on a massive hydroelectric power project to dam the Roanoke River; construction began in 1960, and the lake was officially completed in 1966; and

WHEREAS, Smith Mountain Lake, which is southeast of the City of Roanoke and southwest of the City of Lynchburg, has more than 580 miles of shoreline; it teems with wildlife and is a well-known fishing destination; and

WHEREAS, over the years, Smith Mountain Lake, which is the largest inland water recreation area wholly in the Commonwealth, became a popular vacation destination; houses, condominiums, and holiday homes were built by people who were drawn to the spectacular woodland beauty that surrounds the lake; and

WHEREAS, with campgrounds, marinas, golf courses, shops, restaurants, and a variety of lodging options, Smith Mountain Lake has become a premier destination, and today, more than 12,000 people call Smith Mountain Lake home; and

WHEREAS, the population of Smith Mountain Lake increases by another 50,000 people during the summer; vacationers appreciate the serenity and outstanding vistas that surround them, and they frequently take advantage of the many programs and activities that are held around the lake; and

WHEREAS, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the creation of Smith Mountain Lake, a multitude of events and programs are planned for 2016, including a triathlon, a birthday party, fishing tournaments, regattas, races, festivals, and tours; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate of Virginia, That Smith Mountain Lake hereby be commended on the occasion of its 50th anniversary in 2016; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Vicki Gardner, executive director of the Smith Mountain Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce, as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's admiration and appreciation for the organization's work to ensure that Smith Mountain Lake remains an outstanding destination for all Virginians.

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