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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 786

Offered January 18, 2017

Commending Colonial Heights American Legion Auxiliary Unit 284.

Patrons—Cox, Anderson, Bell, John J., Bell, Richard P., Campbell, Carr, Cole, Freitas, Ingram, Jones, Loupassi, McQuinn, Mullin, Murphy, O'Bannon, Pillion, Rasoul, Robinson, Rush, Simon, Stolle and Ware; Senators: Chase, Dance, Edwards, Ruff, Spruill and Stuart

WHEREAS, Colonial Heights American Legion Auxiliary Unit 284 has worked with Colonial Heights American Legion Post 284 to support and honor local veterans, provide for the welfare of children, encourage American patriotic values, and provide dedicated volunteer service to the entire Colonial Heights and Tri-Cities communities for 70 years; and

WHEREAS, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 284 was officially chartered on January 2, 1947, holding its first meetings at what was then Colonial Heights City Hall; subsequent meetings were held in several local buildings, including the historic mansion, Violet Bank, before American Legion Post 284 purchased its current location on Springdale Avenue in 1958; and

WHEREAS, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 284 has had 44 presidents, many of whom served multiple terms, with Hilda Hubbard as its first president and Susan Oertel serving as the current president in the unit's 70th year of service; and

WHEREAS, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 284 has grown to include a record 387 members, becoming the largest unit in Virginia's American Legion District 11 and the largest unit in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 284 has made significant contributions to Colonial Heights and the Tri-Cities throughout its history, having raised funds for many local causes and projects, including assisting American Legion Post 284 in fundraising for the construction of Shepherd Stadium, which hosts numerous civic activities, and it helped create and co-sponsor the City of Colonial Heights Back to School Festival and Halloween in the Park; and

WHEREAS, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 284 empowers the youth of the community through Teachers Appreciation Week, donations to area schools, several generous scholarship opportunities, and a Christmas shopping spree for disadvantaged children, as well as by sending 20 girls to Girls State in 2016 and assisting another veterans honor society in the administration of their Flags for First Graders' program; and

WHEREAS, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 284 actively supports veteran Stand Downs, clothing drives, bingo, religious services, and other programs at the Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center to honor the service and sacrifices of all veterans; and

WHEREAS, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 284, works closely with the Legionnaires of Post 284, Sons of the American Legion Squadron 284, and the Post 284 American Legion Riders to make unique contributions to local charitable causes supporting youth, active duty and convalescent veterans and their families, teachers, and first responders; and

WHEREAS, Colonial Heights American Legion Post 284 leads by example and has inspired countless other members of the community to take an active role in bettering the quality of life of their fellow Colonial Heights residents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Colonial Heights American Legion Auxiliary Unit 284 for its service to veterans and the residents of Colonial Heights on the occasion of its 70th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Colonial Heights American Legion Auxiliary Unit 284 as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the organization's contributions to the community.

INTRODUCED

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