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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 868

Offered February 2, 2017

Commending the James Madison Museum of Orange County Heritage.

Patrons—Freitas; Senator: Reeves

WHEREAS, the James Madison Museum of Orange County Heritage has been honoring the contributions of America's fourth president and illuminating the rich history of Orange County for 40 years; and

WHEREAS, the James Madison Museum was founded by Jaquelin and Helen Marie Taylor in 1976, as an exhibition to celebrate America's Bicentennial; and

WHEREAS, located in a converted 1930s automobile dealership, the James Madison Museum is a true gem and its 13,000 square feet of exhibit space house a wonderful collection of documents, costumes, farm equipment, and Madison family artifacts; and

WHEREAS, the James Madison Museum is the first museum in the United States to honor President James Madison, the father of the United States Constitution, and it also celebrates the contributions of First Lady Dolley Madison and President Zachary Taylor, who was born in Orange County; and

WHEREAS, the James Madison Museum's Madison Room displays numerous possessions of the Madisons and Zachary Taylor, as well as some from other Virginia-born presidents; among the museum's most prized artifacts is the fourth president's favorite chair, known as the Campeche Chair, which was a gift from Thomas Jefferson; and

WHEREAS, located in historic downtown Orange, near Montpelier, the James Madison Museum's mission is to highlight the agricultural and economic history of Orange County and early Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the James Madison Museum's largest exhibit room is the Hall of Agriculture and Transportation, which features a large collection of antique farming tools and equipment, horse-drawn conveyances, a 1732 cube house, and a 1923 Ford Model T; and

WHEREAS, the Black History Room at the James Madison Museum showcases the history of African Americans in Orange County and Virginia from the American Revolution through Emancipation, and the museum also features a Temporary Exhibit Room for rotating displays; and

WHEREAS, the James Madison Museum offers something for everyone to enjoy and is a wonderful place for students, families, and history enthusiasts, especially presidential, Virginia, and Civil War buffs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the James Madison Museum of Orange County Heritage on 40 years of promoting America's fourth president and the rich history of Orange County; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Ponch K. McPhee, president of the James Madison Museum of Orange County Heritage Board of Directors, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the museum's efforts to preserve and present the contributions of President James Madison and the remarkable heritage of Orange County and Virginia.

INTRODUCED

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