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**HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 408**

Offered February 15, 2017

*Commending first responders to the Appomattox County tornado.*

Patrons—Fariss and Garrett

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2016, at approximately 3:30 p.m., an EF-3 tornado formed near the border of Appomattox County and Campbell County and was on the ground for 17.1 miles, cutting a 400-yard-wide path of destruction and damaging more than 200 homes, businesses, nonprofits, and structures; and

WHEREAS, assessment of the catastrophic conditions from the EF-3 tornado prompted Appomattox County to declare a local emergency and Governor Terence R. McAuliffe to declare a state of emergency; local government staff quickly established an Emergency Operations and Dispatching Center; and

WHEREAS, the local and surrounding area volunteer fire departments, emergency medical personnel, rescue squads, sheriff's departments, police departments, state police officers, local government staff, community-based service organizations, private individuals, and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management staff and Incident Management Team immediately responded to assist with the massive destruction created by the storm; and

WHEREAS, first responders to the Evergreen, Central Baptist Church, and other surrounding communities quickly assessed damage, located and cared for the injured, and liaised with local hospitals to ensure timely care; without this collaborative assistance, the disaster recovery efforts would have been impossible; and

WHEREAS, all of the dedicated, concerned individuals who assisted in the aftermath of the Evergreen tornado demonstrated courage, selflessness, and perseverance during a time of warranted need to the citizens of Appomattox County; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That first responders to the Appomattox County tornado hereby be commended for their efficient, effective, and well-coordinated response to an emergency situation; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for the heroic actions of all first responders to the Appomattox County tornado.

INTRODUCED

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