

2017 SESSION

ENROLLED

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 314

Commending Michael Lester Lipford.

Agreed to by the Senate, January 19, 2017
Agreed to by the House of Delegates, January 27, 2017

WHEREAS, Michael Lester Lipford began his career more than 30 years ago as the first director of the Virginia Natural Heritage Program, a division of the Department of Conservation and Recreation; and

WHEREAS, Michael Lipford went on to become the executive director of the Virginia Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and served in that capacity for more than 25 years; and

WHEREAS, through his work at TNC, Michael Lipford has helped protect more than 350,000 acres of land and some of Virginia's special and unique places for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Michael Lipford's love of Virginia helped him inspire others to take on incredible challenges, such as bringing back rare freshwater mussels or Virginia's rarest bird, the red-cockaded woodpecker; restoring the seagrass, oysters, and scallops of the coastal bays protected by Virginia's barrier islands; and assuming ownership and management of the Virginia Coast Reserve, the longest coastal wilderness on the East Coast of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Michael Lipford grew the Virginia Chapter of TNC from a small staff of six to a staff of more than 60 in offices in Abingdon, Hot Springs, Charlottesville, Richmond, Arlington, Nassawadox, and Wakefield; and

WHEREAS, Michael Lipford's work can be seen in every corner of the Commonwealth from Warm Springs Mountain down to the Clinch Valley, from the Southern Pine Forests up to Dragon Run, and from Virginia's Eastern Shore out into the Mid-Atlantic; and

WHEREAS, Michael Lipford has accepted a new challenge and position as the division director of the Southern United States for TNC, but he will continue to call Virginia home; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Michael Lester Lipford for his 30 years of service to the Commonwealth as a conservationist; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Michael Lester Lipford as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for his work on behalf of his beloved Virginia.

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