

## 2018 SESSION

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### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 344

Offered February 22, 2018

*Commending the Fort Defiance High School Envirothon team.*

Patrons—Landes; Senator: Hanger

WHEREAS, the Fort Defiance High School Envirothon team won the Virginia Envirothon state championship held May 21 - 22, 2017, at Virginia State University; and

WHEREAS, Envirothon is a team-based academic competition that gives students an opportunity to learn from natural resource professionals; as part of the competition, students are tested in a variety of categories and must give an oral presentation on a solution to a real world environmental challenge; and

WHEREAS, sixteen teams from across the Commonwealth participated in the 2017 Envirothon, which focused on the issue of "Agricultural Soil and Water Conservation Stewardship"; and

WHEREAS, the Fort Defiance High School Envirothon team—consisting of student conservationists Michael Reefer, Claudette "C.J." Johnson, Jacob Lam, Louisa Esteban, and Dillon Rusmiser—finished first in soils, second in wildlife, second in presentation, and third in forestry to claim the overall title; and

WHEREAS, the victory was Fort Defiance High School's tenth Envirothon state title since it began participating in the competition in 2001; the school also has one North American title; and

WHEREAS, by clinching the 2017 Virginia state title, the Fort Defiance High School Envirothon team progressed to compete against teams from across the United States, Canada, and China in the National Conservation Foundation Envirothon held July 23 - 29 in Maryland; and

WHEREAS, the championship victory is a testament to the hard work and dedication of each member of the Fort Defiance High School Envirothon team, the excellent guidance of coaches Brent Hull and Eric Stogdale, and the enthusiastic support of the entire Fort Defiance High School community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Fort Defiance High School Envirothon team on winning the 2017 Virginia Envirothon state championship; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Fort Defiance High School Envirothon team as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the team's outstanding accomplishments and dedication to studying environmental science and conservation.

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