

2018 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 26

Commending St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, January 19, 2018

WHEREAS, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, a Suffolk-based church that has provided spiritual leadership, worship, and fellowship to countless parishioners, celebrated its 375th anniversary in 2017; and

WHEREAS, St. Paul's Episcopal Church traces its roots to 1642—134 years before the founding of the United States—when the Virginia General Assembly split Nansemond County into three separate Anglican church parishes; since then, the church has inhabited five different buildings in the Suffolk area; and

WHEREAS, St. Paul's Episcopal Church's first building, known as the "Brick Church," was constructed circa 1643 on a bluff overlooking the Nansemond River; over a century later in 1753, the congregation moved to a new building in downtown Suffolk; and

WHEREAS, following the American Revolution, St. Paul's Episcopal Church fell into disrepair and was torn down; between 1802 and 1846, parishioners worshipped at Suffolk's Union Chapel; and

WHEREAS, in 1846, St. Paul's Episcopal Church moved to its fourth location in downtown Suffolk; it remained there until 1895, when the growing congregation moved to its current neo-Gothic building; and

WHEREAS, under its current rector, the Reverend Dr. Keith Emerson, St. Paul's Episcopal Church continues to build on its long legacy of service and outreach to the Suffolk community; in addition to holding two services each Sunday, the church hosts several study groups and is home to a food pantry used to feed those in need; and

WHEREAS, to celebrate its 375th anniversary, St. Paul's Episcopal Church held a formal celebration on June 4, 2017, and parishioners also went on a pilgrimage that included prayers, readings, and fellowship at each of the five building sites from the church's history; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That St. Paul's Episcopal Church hereby be commended for its service to the residents of Suffolk on the occasion of its 375th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to St. Paul's Episcopal Church as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for its long history of spiritual leadership.

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