

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 864

*Commending the Virginia Defense Force.*

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 18, 2019  
 Agreed to by the Senate, February 21, 2019

WHEREAS, the Virginia Defense Force, one of the three components of the Virginia state military, along with the Virginia National Guard and the Virginia Air National Guard, traces its history and tradition of citizen-soldier service to the founding of the Virginia Militia in Jamestown in 1607; and

WHEREAS, in response to the 1917 federalization of the Virginia National Guard, the Commonwealth created the Virginia State Volunteers to support civil authorities; they were soon renamed the Virginia Volunteers and guarded bridges, waterways, fuel storage areas, and public buildings and facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Volunteers were deactivated in 1921 when the Virginia National Guard returned home from World War I; and

WHEREAS, following the 1940 Nazi defeat of the French army, Governor James Hubert Price ordered the establishment of the Virginia Protective Force, which assumed the in-state missions of the Virginia National Guard after it was called to federal service; and

WHEREAS, in 1944, the Virginia General Assembly changed the name of the Virginia Protective Force to the Virginia State Guard; it was deactivated when the Virginia National Guard returned from federal service in June 1947; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia General Assembly amended the Code of Virginia in 1981 to permit a Virginia State Guard to once again exist during peacetime, and organizational meetings continued for several years; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia State Guard State Headquarters was formally established on April 18, 1984, which is considered the founding date of the modern Virginia Defense Force; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia General Assembly amended the Code of Virginia on March 1, 1986, to change the name of the Virginia State Guard to the Virginia Defense Force; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Defense Force is authorized by Title 44 of the Code of the Virginia as the all-volunteer reserve of the Virginia National Guard, and it serves as a force multiplier for all Virginia National Guard domestic operations; and

WHEREAS, for 35 years, members of the Virginia Defense Force have volunteered their time, skills, energy, and expertise, providing countless hours of dedicated service supporting the Virginia National Guard as part of the state emergency response team that assists their fellow Virginians during times of need; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Virginia Defense Force and its dedicated members for their devotion to duty and their many outstanding and valuable contributions to the safety of citizens of the Commonwealth; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Brig. Gen. (Va.) Justin P. Carlitti, Sr., on behalf of the Virginia Defense Force members under his command as an expression of the General Assembly's gratitude for their 35 years of dedication to the citizens of the Commonwealth.

ENROLLED

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