

1996 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 352

Offered February 29, 1996

Commending the Town of Saltville on the occasion of its centennial.

Patrons—Tate; Senator: Marye

Consent to introduce

WHEREAS, on February 7, 1896, by Act of the General Assembly, the Town of Saltville was created; and

WHEREAS, officially a town for 100 years, Saltville boasts an historic and prehistoric record that goes back thousands of years; and

WHEREAS, the regular discoveries of the remains of extinct species document the prehistory of Saltville to at least 14,000 years ago; and

WHEREAS, one of the most historic towns of Southwest Virginia, Saltville traces its history to 1748, when the Patton Expedition, which discovered the Cumberland Gap, visited the lovely valley in which the present Town of Saltville is located; and

WHEREAS, salt, one of the most common and most valuable of substances, is the reason for Saltville's existence, and the mining of salt, beginning in 1782, is an integral part of Saltville's history; and

WHEREAS, the value of salt was never more evident than during the Civil War, when Saltville became the focus for several efforts by the Union Army to cut off the Confederacy's supply of this vital mineral, efforts that proved unsuccessful; and

WHEREAS, the records of the Town of Saltville are replete with the names of famous Virginians, including that of J. E. B. Stuart, whose brother was a part owner of the salt works, and whose widow, Flora Cooke Stuart, returned to Saltville after the war with her two children; and

WHEREAS, in 1892, shortly before its official founding, the creation of the giant Mathieson Alkali Works created a boom in Saltville, and the company was to remain a central part of life in Saltville until its closing 80 years later; and

WHEREAS, since the closing of the salt works in 1972, Saltville has striven, with notable success, to build a more diverse and more durable industrial base and to provide jobs for its hardy and loyal citizens; and

WHEREAS, as they look back on over 200 years of eventful history, the citizens of Saltville can take great pride in the endurance and perseverance of their forebears, on the great natural beauty that surrounds them, and on the unique place that Saltville holds in the history of the Commonwealth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend the Town of Saltville on the occasion of its centennial observance; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Mayor Frank E. Lewis in honor of this milestone in the history of the Town of Saltville.

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