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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 41

Offered January 16, 1996

Commending the Colonial Beach Volunteer Fire Department.

Patrons—Murphy; Senator: Chichester

WHEREAS, on March 21, 1894, a resolution was passed by the Colonial Beach Town Council to cooperate in raising funds to purchase fire extinguishing apparatus, to be operated by a volunteer fire company; and

WHEREAS, about 18 months later, on October 22, 1895, the Colonial Beach Volunteer Fire Department was established, and less than a year later, the fledgling department purchased its first piece of equipment, a manually operated, horse-drawn apparatus, for \$875; and

WHEREAS, over the past century, the Colonial Beach Volunteer Fire Department has witnessed many changes, purchased ever more sophisticated and powerful equipment, fought fires throughout the Northern Neck, and grown into one of the most effective and dedicated fire companies in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the passing years saw the construction of the first firehouse, which cost \$24, in 1896; the establishment of the Ladies Auxiliary in 1941; and the successful battles against the most notorious fires in the Northern Neck region; and

WHEREAS, in 1942, the Colonial Beach Volunteer Fire Department fought a huge forest fire in Westmoreland and King George Counties; in 1952, the department helped to contain a dangerous fire in Kilmarnock; in 1955, the Colonial Beach volunteers responded to an emergency in Bowling Green, a fire that ultimately destroyed most of the town's business district; and in 1963, the department fought the "King George Woods" fire for over 60 hours; and

WHEREAS, in addition to providing invaluable assistance to their neighbors throughout the Northern Neck, the Colonial Beach volunteers successfully battled many blazes close to home, routinely saving lives and property and protecting the citizens of Colonial Beach; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, the department experienced one of its finest hours, working for nearly a week during the great ice storm of 1994, responding to over 130 alarms, and working tirelessly to keep roads open for emergency and electrical repair crews; and

WHEREAS, throughout its 100-year history, the Colonial Beach Volunteer Fire Department has built an enviable record of service to the citizens of Colonial Beach and the entire Northern Neck; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly salute the dedicated men and women of the Colonial Beach Volunteer Fire Department; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Colonial Beach Volunteer Fire Department in honor of its century of service to the community.

INTRODUCED

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