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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 357

Offered February 3, 1998

Commending the State of Israel on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

Patrons—Hull, Abbitt, Albo, Almand, Armstrong, Baker, Barlow, Baskerville, Behm, Bennett, Blevins, Bloxom, Brink, Bryant, Byron, Callahan, Cantor, Christian, Clement, Councill, Cox, Cranwell, Crittenden, Croshaw, Darner, Davies, Davis, Day, DeBoer, Deeds, Devolites, Diamonstein, Dickinson, Dillard, Drake, Dudley, Grayson, Griffith, Guest, Hall, Hamilton, Hargrove, Harris, Howell, Ingram, Jackson, Joannou, Johnson, Jones, D.C., Jones, J.C., Jones, S.C., Katzen, Keating, Kilgore, Landes, Marshall, May, McClure, McDonnell, McEachin, McQuigg, Melvin, Moran, Morgan, Moss, Murphy, Nixon, O'Brien, Orrock, Parrish, Phillips, Plum, Puller, Purkey, Putney, Reid, Rhodes, Robinson, Rollison, Ruff, Rust, Scott, Sherwood, Shuler, Spruill, Stump, Tata, Tate, Thomas, Van Landingham, Van Yahres, Wagner, Wardrup, Ware, Watts, Weatherholtz, Wilkins, Williams and Woodrum; Senators: Barry, Bolling, Chichester, Colgan, Couric, Edwards, Forbes, Gartlan, Hanger, Hawkins, Holland, Houck, Howell, Lambert, Lucas, Marsh, Martin, Marye, Maxwell, Miller, K.G., Miller, Y.B., Mims, Newman, Norment, Potts, Quayle, Reasor, Reynolds, Saslaw, Schrock, Stolle, Stosch, Ticer, Trumbo, Walker, Wampler, Watkins, Whipple, Williams and Woods

WHEREAS, 1998 marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of the modern Jewish State of Israel; and

WHEREAS, officially declared an independent nation on May 14, 1948, Israel plans a series of events, beginning on the first night of Hanukkah on December 23, 1997, to celebrate its golden jubilee; and

WHEREAS, Israel has much to commemorate and celebrate, most notably the fact that it has established, in a short time and in the face of intractable opposition and hostility, a free, modern, and politically stable nation; and

WHEREAS, in its half-century of existence, Israel has become the most successful democracy in the Middle East, and its citizens enjoy one of the highest standards of living in the area; and

WHEREAS, born in the ashes of the Holocaust, Israel has from its inception faced the hostility, and frequently the armed aggression, of its neighbors; and

WHEREAS, despite difficult and often dangerous circumstances, Israel has prospered, blessed with a succession of great leaders, from David Ben-Gurion and Golda Meir to Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Rabin; and

WHEREAS, the connection between the Commonwealth and Israel was recognized by Governor Gerald Baliles in 1986, when he created the Virginia-Israel Commission to "commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel" in 1988; and

WHEREAS, today, the Virginia-Israel Advisory Board, composed of 25 members representing business, education, the arts, and government, advises the Governor and General Assembly on "ways to improve economic and cultural links between the Commonwealth and the State of Israel, with a focus on the areas of commerce and trade, art and education, and general government"; and

WHEREAS, with the jubilee observance culminating on April 29-30, 1998, Israel will celebrate its anniversary with events marking the birth and development of the state, the struggle to find peace and security, and its hopes for the future; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly congratulate the State of Israel on the occasion of its golden anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit a copy of this resolution to Israeli Ambassador Eliahu Ben-Elissar as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for Israel's manifold accomplishments and best wishes for a peaceful and prosperous future.

INTRODUCED

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