HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 617

Commending Jerry L. Sprouse.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, January 22, 1999 Agreed to by the Senate, January 28, 1999

WHEREAS, Jerry L. Sprouse, a dispatcher for the New Kent County Sheriff's Department for 18 years and currently the department's dispatch supervisor, will retire on January 31, 1999; and

WHEREAS, a native of Richmond, Jerry Sprouse grew up in New Kent County and was initially hired as a switchboard operator nearly 20 years ago; and

WHEREAS, after a year and a half on the job, Jerry Sprouse was hired as a dispatcher at a time in the early 1980s, when dispatchers used one radio, one telephone, and no computers to handle all of the calls to the sheriff's office; and

WHEREAS, over the next 18 years Jerry Sprouse, who has been blind since he was 20, helped to manage and cope with the growth of the New Kent County Sheriff's Department, which now handles more than 8,000 calls annually, ranging from the humorous to the potentially tragic; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Sprouse has adapted to the increased workload, the changing technology, and New Kent County's growing population with skill, dedication, and hard work; and

WHEREAS, he leaves a New Kent County Sheriff's Department that is vastly different from the one he joined 18 years ago, but the department remains most fortunate to have been staffed by Jerry Sprouse; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend Jerry Sprouse on the occasion of his retirement as dispatcher for the New Kent County Sheriff's Department; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Jerry Sprouse as an expression of the General Assembly's gratitude for his dedicated service and best wishes for a rewarding and fulfilling retirement.