017179852

**1**    **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 844**
**2**    Offered February 1, 2001
**3**    *Designating Gulf War Veterans Appreciation and Remembrance Week and requesting that the Virginia*
**4**    *Department of Veterans Affairs determine the health status of Virginia's Persian Gulf War veterans.*
**5**
              ————
              Patron—Moran
**6**
              ————
**7**               Unanimous consent to introduce
**8**
              ————
**9**               Referred to Committee on Rules
**10**
              ————
**11**    WHEREAS, between August 2, 1990, and February 28, 1991, American military forces were
**12** deployed to Southwest Asia and adjoining regions in defense of America's vital interests and those of its
**13** allies; and
**14**    WHEREAS, some 697,500 Americans served in the Kuwait Theater of Operations during this period,
**15** serving their country and humanity; and
**16**    WHEREAS, in the years since Operation Desert Storm, the economic and personal losses suffered by
**17** nearly 300,000 of these young Americans can only be imagined, with lives interrupted and inexorably
**18** altered by maladies collectively known as Gulf War Illnesses; and
**19**    WHEREAS, upon returning from the Persian Gulf, many of these young Americans have been
**20** unable to resume normal lives because of Gulf War Illnesses; and
**21**    WHEREAS, the veterans of the Persian Gulf War have earned and do deserve our esteem and
**22** gratitude and our acknowledgement that without their sacrifices, our lives would not be as they are
**23** today; now, therefore, be it
**24**    RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby
**25** designate the week of February 26, 2001, as Gulf War Veterans Appreciation and Remembrance Week
**26** in Virginia; and, be it
**27**    RESOLVED FURTHER, That the General Assembly request the Virginia Department of Veterans
**28** Affairs (i) to contract with an appropriate research entity in the Commonwealth to determine the health
**29** status of Virginia's more than 60,000 Persian Gulf War veterans, (ii) to complete the study no later than
**30** February 28, 2003, and (iii) to employ the methodology used by the Kansas State Veteran Commission
**31** in its study of Gulf War veterans, as published in the November 15, 2000, issue of the <u>American</u>
**32** <u>Journal</u> of <u>Epidemiology</u>.