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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 844

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Rules on February 4, 2001)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Moran)

Designating the week of February 26, 2001, as Gulf War Veterans Appreciation and Remembrance Week.

WHEREAS, between August 2, 1990, and February 28, 1991, American military forces were deployed to Southwest Asia and adjoining regions in defense of America's vital interests and those of its allies: and

WHEREAS, some 697,500 Americans served in the Kuwait Theater of Operations during this period, serving their country and humanity; and

WHEREAS, in the years since Operation Desert Storm, the economic and personal losses suffered by nearly 300,000 of these young Americans can only be imagined, with lives interrupted and inexorably altered by maladies collectively known as Gulf War Illnesses; and

WHEREAS, upon returning from the Persian Gulf, many of these young Americans have been unable to resume normal lives because of Gulf War Illnesses; and

WHEREAS, the veterans of the Persian Gulf War have earned and do deserve our esteem and gratitude and our acknowledgement that without their sacrifices, our lives would not be as they are today; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby designate the week of February 26, 2001, as Gulf War Veterans Appreciation and Remembrance Week in Virginia: and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit copies of this resolution to the Secretary of the Commonwealth and the Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs, requesting that he further disseminate copies of this resolution to relevant parties and military organizations in order that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly in this matter.