

## 2008 SESSION

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### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 398

Offered February 14, 2008

*Celebrating the life of Lieutenant Ryan K. Betton.*

Patrons—Armstrong, Marshall, D.W. and Merricks; Senators: Hurt and Reynolds

WHEREAS, United States Navy Lieutenant Ryan K. Betton of Suffolk died on August 15, 2007, while conducting a training operation from the aircraft carrier USS *Harry S. Truman* off the coast of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Betton had roots in Michigan, but spent much of his childhood in Henry County, attended Fieldale-Collinsville High School, and graduated from the Virginia Military Institute in 1998; and

WHEREAS, an excellent instructor who loved to teach people how to fly, Lieutenant Betton wanted to be a pilot since he went to an air show with his father when he was eight years old; and

WHEREAS, in 2006 Lieutenant Betton joined the Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 120 as an instructor and pilot on the EC-2 Hawkeye aircraft and was based at Naval Station Norfolk; and

WHEREAS, in his more than nine years of service, Lieutenant Betton was deployed numerous times to the Western Pacific in support of Operations Southern Watch and Iraqi Freedom; and

WHEREAS, a beloved father, husband, and son, Lieutenant Betton will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his wife, Andrea, and his young son; his parents, brothers, and grandparents; and many other family members, friends, and United States Navy colleagues; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Betton's death is a reminder of the perils faced daily by the thousands of Americans who serve in our armed forces at home and overseas and whose devotion to duty places them in harm's way; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note with great sadness the loss of Lieutenant Ryan K. Betton, a courageous and patriotic Virginian; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Lieutenant Ryan K. Betton as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

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