

2008 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 405

Offered February 15, 2008

Commending the Viking Patrol of Troop 681 of Falls Church.

Patrons—Scott, J.M., Bell, Englin, Hargrove, Janis and Scott, E.T.; Senator: Whipple

WHEREAS, all 11 members of the Viking Patrol, one of 10 patrols that comprise Boy Scout Troop 681 in Falls Church, attained the rank of Eagle Scout, a feat that national, regional, and local Scouting leaders believe is unprecedented; and

WHEREAS, with only five percent on average of Boy Scouts making Eagle Scout, the achievement of the Viking Patrol is truly extraordinary; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Viking Patrol are Seann E. Archibald, Nicholas Choppa, Daniel J. Coleman, Joseph M. Donahoe, Patrick H. Donnelly, William S. Douthitt, Samuel D. Dowell, John Goodwin, M. Andrew Kotyk, Evan R. Martin, and Timothy W. McCabe, and they have been led by Scoutmaster Kevin Coleman and Assistant Scoutmasters Peter Archibald and Richard Choppa; and

WHEREAS, the future did not look so promising when the Viking Patrol went on its first hike in 2001; the young Scouts rebelled about one-third of the way down the trail, refusing to go any further; and

WHEREAS, a turning point came for the Viking Patrol during a 60-mile canoe trip in the Adirondack Mountains in 2003; the boys were challenged physically and mentally but they pulled together and began to embrace the opportunities to learn and grow through Scouting activities; and

WHEREAS, Eagle Scouts must earn at least 21 merit badges, including 12 required badges in subjects such as first aid, citizenship, and personal fitness, and then develop and complete a final community service project that involves at least 100 hours of work and enlisting other volunteers; and

WHEREAS, for their projects, most of the Viking Patrol members did trail work or construction projects for local public parks, and the patrol's final big trip together was a 90-mile backpacking adventure in New Mexico; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend and congratulate the members of the Viking Patrol of Troop 681 of Falls Church for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the members of the Viking Patrol of Troop 681 of Falls Church as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for their motivation and commitment to develop as individuals and contribute to their community.

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