

2009 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 826

Offered January 29, 2009

Commending the Town of Victoria on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

Patron—Wright

WHEREAS, the Town of Victoria and its citizens celebrate the historic centennial anniversary of the town's founding in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Lunenburg County was farm and forestland in 1906, when the Victoria Land Company purchased 337 acres known as the Waddill House tract; the Tidewater Townsite Corporation acquired 75 acres of land in the Lewistown District from James. T. Waddill, Jr.; and the Tidewater Improvement Company bought 137 acres from the Miller Lumber Company; and

WHEREAS, the site of the town was born when the three land companies divided up the acreage into streets and alleys and advertised the sale of lots in "this young giant railway center where the division headquarters of the Virginian Railway are now building"; and

WHEREAS, railroad magnate and financier Henry Huttleston Rogers greatly admired Queen Victoria; he named the railroad town Victoria after the queen when it was officially established by the Circuit Court of Lunenburg in April 1909; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Victoria, inhabited by about 700 townspeople, petitioned and was granted incorporation and after a first election was contested and finally settled, the first town council was seated on July 28, 1909; and

WHEREAS, Victoria became a bustling division point of the Virginian Railroad's Norfolk Division, providing a large train yard and an equipment maintenance operation for servicing steam locomotives; and

WHEREAS, like many other communities across the United States, the end of steam railroading and mergers in the second half of the 20th century reduced railroad jobs and related employment opportunities; however, Victoria and Lunenburg County remained resilient, and by the late 1990s, transportation employment represented only a small percentage of the area's overall economy; and

WHEREAS, today, the Town of Victoria is a vibrant community that provides an excellent quality of life for its citizens; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend and congratulate the Town of Victoria on the occasion of its 100th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the citizens of the Town of Victoria as an expression of the General Assembly's appreciation of the town's rich heritage and best wishes for a joyful centennial celebration.

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