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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 404

Offered January 28, 2009

Commending the King George Ruritan Club on the occasion of its 70th anniversary.

Patron—Stuart

WHEREAS, in 1938, a group of men with a mutual interest in the well-being of King George County and its citizens banded together to form the King George Ruritan Club; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond County Ruritan Club sponsored the King George Ruritan Club, and on October 31, 1938, the new club was officially granted National Charter No. 57; and

WHEREAS, the King George Ruritan Club's founding 27 members elected J. W. Bland as its first president; and the club began work hosting Ruritan dinners to raise funds and supporting parent-teacher associations, church groups, the Daughters of America, and the Rebekah Lodge; and

WHEREAS, following World War II, the King George Ruritan Club reorganized in 1948 and concentrated on funding the installation of community sidewalks to help safeguard school children and on supporting the King George Volunteer Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, in the 1950s, King George Ruritan Club projects included providing a public telephone at the King George Courthouse, collecting clothes for neighbors in need, and aiding the Ground Observer Corps; and

WHEREAS, the members also helped purchase lights for King George High School's athletic field and organized Fall Festival with profits going to the fire department and rescue squad; and

WHEREAS, the King George Ruritan Club members were especially proud of their efforts throughout the 1960s to make a county community center a reality; and in 1979, President John Owens turned the first spadeful of soil to begin construction, representing the club's hard work and dedication to the project; and

WHEREAS, main fundraisers in the 1970s included hauling manure to customers from Hopyard Farm to raise funds to support the establishment of the King William Volunteer Rescue Squad's telemetry system, flag poles for the American Legion and the firehouse, and the first memorial scholarship in honor of J. Grafton McGinniss; and

WHEREAS, support for the Boy Scouts of America began with the club's inception, but the King George Ruritan Club chartered Boy Scout Troop 191 in 1954, and by the 1980s the troop had grown to include Cubs, Webelos, and Explorers; and

WHEREAS, by the late 1980s, the King George Ruritan Club was well-known for its famous chicken BBQ fundraiser that supports many community causes and the Rudy Ruritan Bear Program that provides bears to children on behalf of the King George Sheriff's Department and Rescue Squad; and

WHEREAS, the King George Ruritan Club, among its many milestones, received its first female member in 1999, inducted its first female president in 2003, honored Aubrey Mitchell as a Tom Downing Fellow in 2004, and elected Roy Maloy as district governor in 2008; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly commend and congratulate the King George Ruritan Club on the occasion of its 70th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the King George Ruritan Club as an expression of the General Assembly's gratitude to the members' continued hard work and dedication to King George County and their fellow citizens.

INTRODUCED

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