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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 454

Offered February 9, 2011

Commending the Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association, Inc.

Patron—Marsden

WHEREAS, the Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association, Inc., works to identify, document, protect, and preserve cemeteries in Fairfax County that are threatened by development, vandalism, or neglect; and

WHEREAS, as one of the oldest states in the country, the Commonwealth has an abundance wealth of cemeteries that mark the final resting places of thousands upon thousands of our esteemed ancestors; and

WHEREAS, as time passes, memory fades and oftentimes family and local cemeteries are forgotten, neglected, or threatened by development, particularly in fast-growing parts of the state; and

WHEREAS, the Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association, Inc., was formed by concerned citizens after a grave marker at a local family cemetery was spray painted; and

WHEREAS, the Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association, Inc., works to maintain local cemeteries through identification, surveying, adoption of cemeteries, and public education; and

WHEREAS, the Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association, Inc., recognizes that cemeteries can provide a vast array of information about individuals and families while also providing insight into the customs, traditions, and artwork of the past; and

WHEREAS, the Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association, Inc., will sponsor Cemetery Preservation Month in October 2011 with activities that include a Community Awareness Day, when residents may learn about cemetery preservation and how to adopt a cemetery; and

WHEREAS, Cemetery Preservation Month will also feature an amnesty day, when wayward grave markers can be reported and their return to the Fairfax County's Cultural Resource Management and Protection center can be coordinated; and

WHEREAS, the Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association, Inc., will also sponsor, along with the Springfield Art Guild, an art show that features works of art inspired by cemeteries; and

WHEREAS, the committed members of the Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association, Inc., have provided invaluable service to Fairfax County by advocating for the safeguarding of a unique part of the county's rich heritage; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly commend the Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association, Inc., for its dedication to protecting and preserving family cemeteries in Fairfax County; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association, Inc., as an expression of the General Assembly's appreciation and admiration for the Association's commitment to protecting the reminders of Fairfax County's former residents.

INTRODUCED

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