

2013 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 961

Offered February 18, 2013

Commending Donald G. Harper.

Patron—Wilt

WHEREAS, Donald G. Harper, a highly experienced and deeply respected law-enforcement professional in Northern Virginia and the Shenandoah Valley, retired as the chief of police of the Harrisonburg Police Department in 2012; and

WHEREAS, Donald Harper began his law-enforcement career in 1964 with the Fairfax County Police Department, where he rose to the rank of major; he later became the chief of police for the Vienna Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Donald Harper then served as the chief of police of the Harrisonburg Police Department for 20 years, retiring after 48 years of loyal service to the people of Northern Virginia and the Shenandoah Valley; and

WHEREAS, a visionary leader, Donald Harper established several new units within the Harrisonburg Police Department, including the K-9 unit, mounted bike patrols, motorcycle patrols, and a civil disturbance unit; the creation of these units allowed the department to more effectively serve the community; and

WHEREAS, Donald Harper recognized the need to modernize the department and oversaw a major expansion in the use of technology, including the addition of a computer forensics lab; and

WHEREAS, the Harper-Presgrave Regional Training Center, a three-acre police training complex in Harrisonburg, was named in honor of Donald Harper and a fellow former chief of police in May 2012; and

WHEREAS, Donald Harper exemplifies the integrity, bravery, selflessness, and dedication to duty displayed by law-enforcement professionals throughout the Commonwealth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Donald G. Harper on the occasion of his retirement as the chief of police of the Harrisonburg Police Department in 2012; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Donald G. Harper as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for his dedication to protecting and serving the community.

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