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**HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 161**

Offered March 4, 2014

*Commending Virginia-1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team.*

Patron—Stolle

WHEREAS, in the fall of 2003, the United States Public Health Service officially recognized the Virginia planning effort and established Virginia-1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team as a developmental team within the National Disaster Medical System; recruitment began in December of 2003, and the first team meeting was held in February of 2004; and

WHEREAS, during its first year of existence, Virginia-1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team (VA-1 DMAT) and the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) moved from the United States Department of Health and Human Services into the Federal Emergency Management Agency within the new Department of Homeland Security; and

WHEREAS, in the spring of 2005, VA-1 DMAT provided medical support for the Air Power Over Hampton Roads Air Show, held over three days at the Langley Air Force Base in Hampton; and

WHEREAS, VA-1 DMAT members quickly demonstrated that they were worthy of their new designation; VA-1 DMAT members deployed individually, as strike teams, and as full DMAT teams to Hurricanes Dennis, Emily, Katrina, Ophelia, Rita, and Wilma between July and November 2005; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, NDMS and VA-1 DMAT moved back to the Department of Health and Human Services under a new Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, created by the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act; in 2010, VA-1 DMAT responded to its first international deployment in response to the earthquake in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, VA-1 DMAT deployed to New Orleans, Louisiana, for Hurricane Isaac and New Lisbon, New Jersey, and New York City, New York, for Hurricane Sandy; and

WHEREAS, DMATs are designed to be a rapid-response element to supplement local medical care until other federal or contract resources can be mobilized or the situation is resolved; and

WHEREAS, DMAT personnel are required to maintain appropriate certifications and licensure within their discipline; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That Virginia-1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team hereby be commended on the occasion of its 10th anniversary for their distinguished service and for all of their activities throughout the Commonwealth and the United States; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Virginia-1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team as an expression of the House of Delegates' gratitude for its valuable contributions and many years of service to the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED

HR161