

2014 SPECIAL SESSION I

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5052

Offered April 15, 2014

Commending W. Denman Zirkle.

Patrons—Gilbert and Howell, W.J.

WHEREAS, W. Denman Zirkle, an astute businessman who dedicated himself to the preservation of the Commonwealth's historical and natural resources, retired as the executive director of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation in 2014; and

WHEREAS, elected as the second executive director of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation in March 2009, Denman Zirkle oversaw the preservation of more than 1,200 acres of land and left the foundation poised to acquire additional land; and

WHEREAS, showing remarkable foresight, Denman Zirkle worked to secure the foundation's future, leading efforts to increase membership and donations and helping the foundation purchase and develop its current home, the Lee-Jackson Building in New Market; and

WHEREAS, under Denman Zirkle's visionary leadership, the foundation introduced a model restoration and interpretation project at the Third Winchester Battlefield, the scale of which is comparable to United States National Park Service projects; and

WHEREAS, Denman Zirkle modernized and expanded the foundation's marketing efforts, making it a crucial partner in both local and statewide tourism; he strengthened the foundation's merchandising operations and built partnerships with local businesses to produce specialty coffee blends and wines; and

WHEREAS, a helpful and active leader, Denman Zirkle always worked to ensure that each member of his staff succeeded in his or her duties, and he was an able representative of the foundation to both the public and state officials; and

WHEREAS, prior to working with the foundation, Denman Zirkle offered his expertise as a senior manager at companies in Florida, New York, and Germany; he lives on his historic family farm near Edinburg and is married with four grown children; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend W. Denman Zirkle on the occasion of his retirement as the executive director of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to W. Denman Zirkle as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for his commitment to preserving the history and heritage of the Shenandoah Valley and the Commonwealth.

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