

2014 SPECIAL SESSION I

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5124

Offered June 12, 2014

Commending the Virginia Marine Police.

Patrons—Joannou and James

WHEREAS, the Virginia Marine Police, the law-enforcement arm of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, works diligently to serve the public by protecting and preserving the Commonwealth's tidal natural resources; and

WHEREAS, formed in 1875 as the Oyster Navy, the Virginia Marine Police has maintained a proud tradition of service to the Commonwealth for almost 140 years; Virginia Marine Police officers conduct search and rescue operations, respond to emergency calls and boating accidents, support boating safety, and conduct maritime counterterrorism patrols; and

WHEREAS, among its many responsibilities, the Virginia Marine Police is also tasked with enforcement of the moratorium on harvesting striped bass within designated federal waters enacted by the United States Secretary of Commerce in 1990; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, Captain John Croft and Special Agent James Simpson earned national recognition from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, receiving the Excellence in Law Enforcement Award for their courageous work on an undercover operation that led to the arrest of five charter boat captains who illegally harvested striped bass near Virginia Beach; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected law-enforcement agency, the Virginia Marine Police has received numerous other awards and accolades for its work; and

WHEREAS, Captain Croft and Special Agent Simpson are exemplars of the professionalism, dedication to duty, and care for the community displayed by all members of the Virginia Marine Police; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Virginia Marine Police for its work to serve the public and protect natural resources along the Commonwealth's coastlines; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Rick Lauderman, chief of the Virginia Marine Police, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the exceptional service and sacrifices of all Virginia Marine Police officers.

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