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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 53

Offered January 13, 2016

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*Commending NASA's Wallops Flight Facility.*

Patrons—Lewis and Ruff; Delegate: Bloxom

WHEREAS, NASA's Wallops Flight Facility, located on Wallops Island on Virginia's Eastern Shore, celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2015; the facility is an integral part of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Goddard Space Flight Center and its only launch range; and

WHEREAS, Wallops Flight Facility began in 1945 as the Pilotless Aircraft Research Station under the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics as a part of the Langley Aeronautical Laboratory in Hampton; and

WHEREAS, the first rocket launched from Wallops Flight Facility on June 27, 1945, which formed the foundation for the facility's long-standing record of excellence in conducting research, development, and scientific investigations; and

WHEREAS, Wallops Flight Facility today leads NASA's suborbital and special orbital projects involving research and technology demonstrations on scientific balloons, sounding rockets, and aircraft and offers launch and test range services for small and medium launch vehicles; and

WHEREAS, Wallops Flight Facility is home and partner to the Commonwealth's Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport, a true national asset providing government and industry with access to low-Earth orbit and deep space; and

WHEREAS, throughout its 70 years of existence, Wallops Flight Facility has been a major contributor to the nation's space program, making new discoveries, advancing knowledge of Earth and the universe beyond, and inspiring the next generation of aerospace leaders; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend NASA's Wallops Flight Facility on the occasion of its 70th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to NASA's Wallops Flight Facility as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the facility's contributions to science, space exploration, and the Commonwealth.

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