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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 545

Offered March 5, 2018

Commending the Williamsburg Winery.

Patrons—Mullin; Senator: Mason

WHEREAS, in 2017, the Williamsburg Winery won James City County's prestigious Captain John Smith Award for business excellence; and

WHEREAS, presented annually by the James City County Board of Supervisors and Economic Development Authority, the Captain John Smith Award honors individuals or businesses, such as the Williamsburg Winery, for exemplary contributions to the local business community; and

WHEREAS, the Williamsburg Winery was founded by Patrick Duffeler, a Belgian-born marketing executive who spent much of his career in Europe; after purchasing the 300-acre Wessex Hundred farm in southern Williamsburg, he and his wife Peggy began producing wine on the property in 1985; and

WHEREAS, since its opening over 30 years ago, the Williamsburg Winery has grown into one of the largest wineries in the Commonwealth; its vineyard now covers 40 acres and produces an estimated 65,000 cases of wine per year; and

WHEREAS, in addition to its vineyard, the Williamsburg Winery boasts two restaurants, a large garden, and a boutique hotel called Wedmore Place; in 2017, it added an additional 9,000 square feet of event space; and

WHEREAS, as one of two-dozen "green wineries" in the Commonwealth, the Williamsburg Winery is committed to environmentally friendly practices, including water and energy efficiency, minimal use of pesticides, and recycling and reducing waste; and

WHEREAS, an active member of its community, the Williamsburg Winery routinely hosts charity events for nonprofit organizations such as Meals on Wheels and Dream Catchers at the Cori Sikich Therapeutic Riding Center; and

WHEREAS, the Williamsburg Winery received its Captain John Smith Award at the 24th annual Celebration of Business event held on November 2, 2017, at the Jamestown Settlement's Rotunda and Great Hall; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Williamsburg Winery on winning the 2017 Captain John Smith Award; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Williamsburg Winery as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for its spectacular achievements in business.

INTRODUCED

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