

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 62

Commending the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society.

Agreed to by the Senate, March 8, 2018

WHEREAS, the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society was formed in 1978 to preserve Virginia's aviation and aerospace history and is celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2018; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's contribution to America's aviation and aerospace supremacy is unparalleled in the history of the nation, dating to the balloon club at The College of William and Mary in the 1790s and its subsequent balloon launch to the 21st century spaceport at Wallop's Island, from where rockets regularly launch on resupply missions to the International Space Station; and

WHEREAS, the countless significant historic and current aviation and aerospace accomplishments over the centuries in Virginia and by Virginians are chronicled, researched, taught, published, made known and kept alive by the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society (VAHS) for the benefit of all Virginians and Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society is the sole organization dedicated to this history, which adds to the Commonwealth's distinction as the most historic state in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society is comprised of dedicated volunteers from all across the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society founded the Virginia Aviation Museum and brought to it, for the education and benefit of all Virginians, rare and priceless planes and artifacts relating to Virginia history and beyond, including the recovery of one of only 20 remaining SR-71 Blackbirds (the world's fastest plane) from Edwards Air Force Base, all of which it later donated to the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society is a partner in the establishment of a new aviation museum at Shannon Airport that continues to celebrate Virginia's aeronautical legacy and future by contributing volunteers, technical advice, and monetary support; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society for 40 years has successfully accomplished its mission to inspire and capture the public's interest and imagination in all aspects of aviation and aerospace through study, education, research, interpretation, dissemination, display and preservation of artifacts, and ongoing scholarships pertaining to Virginia's preeminent aviation and aerospace heritage; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society demonstrates its commitment to its mission by maintaining the Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame, which honors past and present Virginians who have made significant contributions to Virginia and to American aviation and aerospace history; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society promulgates scholarship through its *Virginia Eagles* quarterly magazine, its special events and its online presence, the Reed I. West Living History Video Project, the VAHS History Makers Speakers Series, and the VAHS Archives, an ever-growing collection of records and images for research; the society is also the primary source for generating aviation and aerospace-related Virginia Historical Highway Markers; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society also works to enhance future generations of Virginia excellence in aviation and aerospace through the Captain Earl Worley Aeronautical Education Scholarship to students in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and by working with educators, educational institutions, and industry leaders; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society is respected nationally as a leading state aviation and aerospace historical society for its commitment to the majestic endeavor of flight; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society has, for 40 years, contributed to the cultural and educational enhancement of the Commonwealth of Virginia; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the Senate of Virginia, That the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society hereby be commended on the occasion of its 40th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's appreciation for the organization's many contributions to the Commonwealth.

ENROLLED

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