

23105954D

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 673

Offered February 13, 2023

*Commending the Virginia National Guard State Partnership Program.*

Patrons—Reid, Adams, D.M., Bennett-Parker, Bulova, Carr, Cherry, Clark, Convirs-Fowler, Davis, Delaney, Durant, Filler-Corn, Freitas, Greenhalgh, Guzman, Helmer, Hodges, Hope, Hudson, Kory, LaRock, Leftwich, Lopez, Maldonado, Marshall, Mullin, Murphy, Orrock, Plum, Rasoul, Roem, Scott, D.L., Scott, P.A., Seibold, Shin, Simon, Simonds, Subramanyam, Sullivan, Tran, Wachsmann, Ware, Watts, Wilt and Wright; Senators: Reeves, Barker, Bell, Boysko, Chase, Cosgrove, Deeds, DeSteph, Dunnavant, Ebbin, Edwards, Favola, Hackworth, Hanger, Hashmi, Howell, Lewis, Locke, Lucas, Marsden, Mason, McClellan, McDougle, McPike, Morrissey, Newman, Norment, Obenshain, Peake, Petersen, Pillion, Rouse, Ruff, Saslaw, Spruill, Stanley, Stuart, Suetterlein, Surovell and Vogel

WHEREAS, the National Guard's State Partnership Program provides unique partnership capacity-building capabilities to combatant commanders and U.S. ambassadors through formal relationships between U.S. states, territories, the District of Columbia, and foreign nations; since its creation in 1993, the program has grown to 87 partnerships with 95 nations; and

WHEREAS, the National Guard's State Partnership Program (SPP) supports national interests and security cooperation goals by engaging partner nations through military, socio-political, and economic conduits at the local, state, and national levels; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of Tajikistan gained independence from the Soviet Union on September 9, 1991, and since then has remained a sovereign and independent nation that makes numerous contributions to world affairs; and

WHEREAS, Tajikistanis have made many sacrifices to secure their independence and unity within their nation and continue striving to build a strong and prosperous society; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of Tajikistan has extended the hand of friendship to nations around the world and has worked diligently to resist and repel extremist forces that sought to undermine the sovereignty and stability of the Tajik people; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of Tajikistan has endeavored to support the peacekeeping efforts of international organizations and has demonstrated its willingness to send its citizens to help secure the peace of peoples who are strangers to them and live in distant lands; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of Tajikistan entered into the National Guard's State Partnership Program with the Virginia National Guard on July 31, 2003, and has remained an active and valued participant in the program for the past two decades; and

WHEREAS, the armed forces of the Republic of Tajikistan have developed camaraderie with the members of the Virginia National Guard and have done so as representatives of a sovereign independent nation for 20 years; and

WHEREAS, the armed forces of the Republic of Tajikistan have worked hand in hand with the Virginia National Guard, to the benefit of both military forces; and

WHEREAS, members of the Virginia National Guard have been instrumental in supporting counterterrorism efforts in Tajikistan by training members of Tajikistan's ministry of defense in areas such as infantry tactics and military police operations; the Virginia National Guard's professionalism and combat expertise have led the way in building the capability and capacity of Tajikistan military forces; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Virginia National Guard State Partnership Program for its achievements in security cooperation and peace in the Central Asian region on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Virginia National Guard's partnership with the Republic of Tajikistan; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Virginia National Guard State Partnership Program as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the Virginia National Guard's professionalism during its 20-year partnership with the Republic of Tajikistan.

INTRODUCED

HJ673