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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 35

Offered January 14, 1998

Designating Virginia Employer Support of the National Guard and Reserve Week.

Patrons—Marye, Bolling, Chichester, Colgan, Couric, Edwards, Forbes, Gartlan, Hanger, Hawkins, Holland, Houck, Howell, Lambert, Lucas, Maxwell, Miller, K.G., Miller, Y.B., Newman, Norment, Potts, Quayle, Reasor, Reynolds, Saslaw, Schrock, Stolle, Stosch, Ticer, Waddell, Walker, Wampler, Whipple, Williams and Woods; Delegates: Parrish, Shuler and Woodrum

Referred to the Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, National Guard and Reserve forces represent a vital part of our national defense and security; and

WHEREAS, with the continued downsizing of our active-duty military forces, the National Guard and Reserve will play an ever increasing role in maintaining national defense and security; and

WHEREAS, our nation's ability to withstand conflict will depend directly on the training and readiness to serve of the National Guard and Reserve; and

WHEREAS, Virginia businesses have a strong history of supporting National Guard and Reserve forces by allowing soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines leave to complete their training and fulfill their military missions; and

WHEREAS, Virginia businesses have continued to support the National Guard and Reserve and, at times, have subordinated their companies' interests and caused themselves financial and organizational strain; and

WHEREAS, without the dedicated and patriotic efforts of the Virginia businesses that support National Guard and Reserve forces, it would be difficult for Virginia citizens to both serve our national defense and security interests and successfully develop civilian careers; and

WHEREAS, the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve has developed a national award program to recognize outstanding employers for their active support of the National Guard and Reserve; and

WHEREAS, businesses and employers may be nominated for such actions as allowing soldiers to complete training without penalty and continuing medical benefits and full pay for the families of active duty service members; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby proclaim the week of April 20-24, 1998, and the third week of April in each succeeding year, as Virginia Employer Support of the National Guard and Reserve Week; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the citizens of the Commonwealth be encouraged to support Virginia businesses that contribute to the success of the National Guard and Reserve; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the citizens of the Commonwealth be encouraged to nominate Virginia businesses that support the National Guard and Reserve to the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve to be recognized by its national award program.

INTRODUCED

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