

# 2003 SESSION

ENROLLED

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 835

*Commending the Virginia State Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police.*

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, January 31, 2003

Agreed to by the Senate, February 6, 2003

WHEREAS, on July 25, 1953, the Grand Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police, met with members of Old Dominion Lodge No. 1, Roanoke; John Marshall Lodge No. 2, Richmond; and Commodore Lodge No. 3, Norfolk, for the purpose of chartering the Virginia State Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police; and

WHEREAS, by the time of the first state conference in Richmond in July 1955, the Virginia State Lodge consisted of nine local lodges, a number that increased to 17 active lodges by 1966; and

WHEREAS, over the past half-century, the Virginia State Lodge has grown into one of the most active and respected state lodges in the nation with more than 8,600 members in 54 lodges statewide; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia State Lodge has become a national leader with its active and effective legislative programs, recently winning passage of the "Heart Lung Bill," which allows law-enforcement personnel to retire as a result of heart-related illness brought on by the stress of employment; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia State Lodge established the Vest Program, which has provided nearly 600 free vests to officers and deputies in need throughout Virginia; and

WHEREAS, in 1995 the Virginia State Lodge, in cooperation with Virginia Beach Lodge No. 8, hosted the Fraternal Order of Police National Convention in Virginia Beach; and

WHEREAS, in 2001 Eileen M. Buckley from McLean, Virginia, was elected the national president of the Fraternal Order of Police Associates; and

WHEREAS, in October 2002 the Virginia State Lodge announced the formation of the Virginia Law Enforcement Partnership, a charitable foundation dedicated to working in partnership with local communities to deal with the special needs of Virginia citizens, which are not being addressed adequately by other means; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia State Lodge, along with local lodges across the Commonwealth, has been an active contributor to charitable organizations, ranking near the top annually among contributors to the National Easter Seals Program; and

WHEREAS, for 50 years, the Virginia State Lodge has been a leader in representing the interests of Virginia's law-enforcement professionals; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Virginia State Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police, on the occasion of its golden anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Dan Blake, president of the Virginia State Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police, as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and best wishes.

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