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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 429

Offered March 5, 2010

Commending Dr. M.G. "Pat" Robertson.

Patrons—Cosgrove, Abbitt, Athey, Bell, R.P., Byron, Carrico, Cleaveland, Cole, Cox, J.A., Cox, M.K., Crockett-Stark, Edmunds, Garrett, Gilbert, Griffith, Howell, W.J., Hugo, Iaquinto, Ingram, Janis, Joannou, Jones, Kilgore, Knight, Landes, Lingamfelter, Lohr, Loupassi, Marshall, D.W., Marshall, R.G., Massie, Miller, J.H., Morefield, Morgan, Morrissey, Nixon, Nutter, Oder, Orrock, Pogge, Poindexter, Purkey, Putney, Scott, E.T., Sherwood, Stolle, Tata, Villanueva, Ware, R.L. and Wright; Senator: McWaters

WHEREAS, Dr. M.G. "Pat" Robertson, an inspirational televangelist and longtime host of the Christian television program, *The 700 Club*, is recognized in 2010 for his many contributions to the Commonwealth and his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Robertson was born on March 22, 1930, in Lexington, Virginia, the son of Absalom Willis Robertson and Gladys Churchill Robertson, graduated from Washington and Lee University in 1950, and served his country in the United States Marines during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Robertson returned home after his military service and married Adelia "Dede" Elmer on August 26, 1954; he completed a law degree from Yale University Law School in 1955 and a master of divinity degree from New York Theological Seminary in 1959; and

WHEREAS, committed to helping people in need both spiritually and by improving their quality of life, Dr. Robertson was active as an ordained Southern Baptist minister for many years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Robertson founded the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN) in 1960, serving as the chairman and the public face of CBN, as well as the host of its religious magazine show, *The 700 Club*, since 1966; and

WHEREAS, in 1977 Dr. Robertson established Regent University in Virginia Beach as one of the nation's leading academic centers for Christian thought and action; and

WHEREAS, in 1978 Dr. Robertson began Operation Blessing International Relief and Development Corporation, a nonprofit humanitarian organization that has provided hunger relief, disaster relief, medical aid, and community development to 193 million people in 96 countries and all 50 states; and

WHEREAS, in 1988 Dr. Robertson made a run to become the Republican Party's nominee for President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 1989 Dr. Robertson founded the Christian Coalition, a political organization credited with increasing the influence of conservative Christians in American public policy; and

WHEREAS, committed to protecting religious and constitutional freedom, Dr. Robertson founded the American Center for Law and Justice in 1990; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Robertson has achieved national and international recognition as a broadcaster and was the founder and cochairman of International Family Channel, Inc., which included the Family Channel; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Robertson is a compelling and compassionate spiritual leader, who is guided by Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"; he is devoted to his family, his viewers who are his extended family, his community, and the Commonwealth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend Dr. M.G. "Pat" Robertson, on the occasion of his 80th birthday on March 22, 2010, for his many contributions to the Commonwealth; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Dr. M.G. "Pat" Robertson as an expression of the General Assembly's gratitude for his steadfast service to his fellow citizens and best wishes for a joyful birthday celebration.