

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 235

Commending Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 14, 2022

Agreed to by the Senate, February 18, 2022

WHEREAS, for 150 years, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, one of the Commonwealth's premier institutions of higher learning, has provided outstanding educational and research opportunities to young men and women, while serving the community and the Commonwealth as a whole; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University opened its doors on October 1, 1872, as the Commonwealth's first land-grant institution, originally known as the Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College, with the bill signed by Governor Gilbert C. Walker in 1872 and funds provided through the Morrill Land-Grant Act; and

WHEREAS, 150 years and many name changes later, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) is distinguished as the Commonwealth's most comprehensive university and leading research institution with nearly 300 undergraduate and graduate degree programs across nine colleges and an enrollment of more than 37,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students; and

WHEREAS, over the course of its 150-year history, Virginia Tech has benefited from the leadership of 16 presidents, whose consequential actions have enabled the institution to emerge as a forerunner in higher education locally, nationally, and globally, inspiring and empowering students, faculty, and partners to learn, innovate, and serve their communities in transformational ways; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech is guided by a founding vision based on the core tenets of research and discovery, teaching and learning, and outreach and engagement, and the institution promotes the importance of diverse and inclusive communities, the pursuit of knowledge and innovation, opportunity and affordability, and excellence and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech has 11 Agricultural Research and Extension Center locations delivering research and extension programs to support producers, K-12 programs, and citizens throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Virginia Tech is inspired by its land-grant identity and driven by its motto *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve) to be an inclusive community of knowledge, discovery, and creativity dedicated to improving the quality of life and the human condition within the Commonwealth and throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech is steeped in rich traditions and the sacred ideals of Brotherhood, Honor, Leadership, Sacrifice, Service, Loyalty, Duty, and *Ut Prosim* inscribed on the pylons that oblige all who enter the gateway of the main campus to consider and live out the primary principles upon which the institution was founded; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech maintains an active presence at its 2,600-acre main campus in Blacksburg, as well as a significant presence in other parts of the Commonwealth, including the Innovation Campus in Northern Virginia, the Health Sciences and Technology Campus in Roanoke, and Centers in Newport News and Richmond, along with an international study-abroad site in Switzerland; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech is one of the great national and global universities of the 21st century, recognized for its research strengths, world-class faculty, exceptional facilities, and ability to integrate and adapt its learning, discovery, and engagement missions; and

WHEREAS, alumni of Virginia Tech can be found around the globe and have changed the nation and the world for the better by becoming pioneers and leaders in a wealth of fields and industries, all while proudly representing what it means to be a Hokie; and

WHEREAS, the members of the General Assembly join with the students, faculty, staff, and more than 270,000 alumni of Virginia Tech in commemorating this important milestone in the university's long and storied history; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University on the occasion of its 150th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Rector Letitia A. Long and President Timothy D. Sands of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the institution's extraordinary history, unparalleled legacy of excellence, and invaluable contributions to the Commonwealth, the nation, and the world.

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