

2022 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 79

Commending Charles Johnston.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 7, 2022

WHEREAS, Charles Johnston, an esteemed public administrator who formerly served as the planning director of Clarke County for many years, was awarded the Wingate Mackay-Smith Clarke County Land Conservation Award by the Clarke County Conservation Easement Authority in 2021; and

WHEREAS, Charles Johnston was presented this prestigious award for his role in establishing Clarke County's Conservation Easement Purchase Program two decades ago, which has since that time helped to preserve the environment and the rural character of the region by protecting land with significant agricultural, natural, scenic, and historic resources from future development; and

WHEREAS, after 22 years as Clarke County's planning director, Charles Johnston took a similar position in Calvert County, Maryland, in 2011 and later became the director of the Community Planning and Building Department of the City of Fredericksburg; and

WHEREAS, shortly after Charles Johnston's departure from Clarke County, Governor Robert F. McDonnell honored the Clarke County Conservation Easement Authority with an Environmental Excellence Award, recognizing the care and consideration taken in the creation of its Conservation Easement Purchase Program and the valuable opportunities this program offered to local landowners; and

WHEREAS, in addition to spearheading the Conservation Easement Purchase Program in Clarke County, Charles Johnston supported various other worthwhile initiatives to enhance residents' quality of life, including an early attempt to establish a Salvation Army retreat along the Shenandoah River, the construction of a golf course along the Shenandoah River, and the development of commercial properties in Waterloo and Double Tollgate; and

WHEREAS, Charles Johnston's visionary leadership during his tenure with Clarke County made a profound and lasting impact on the community that has been appreciated by residents for decades since; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That Charles Johnston, former planning director of Clarke County, hereby be commended for receiving the Clarke County Conservation Easement Authority's 2021 Wingate Mackay-Smith Clarke County Land Conservation Award; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Charles Johnston as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for his contributions to the Commonwealth.

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