

2025 SESSION

ENROLLED

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 203

Commending Manakin Episcopal Church.

Agreed to by the Senate, January 16, 2025

WHEREAS, Manakin Episcopal Church, located in what is now Powhatan County, has provided opportunities for joyful worship, spiritual leadership, and generous outreach to the community for 325 years; and

WHEREAS, in 1700, King William III of England financed the resettlement of a group of French Protestants, the Huguenots, who had fled to England after being forced out of their home country; and

WHEREAS, after arriving in the Colony of Virginia, the Huguenots sailed up the James River, where William Byrd had arranged for them a grant of 10,000 acres of land near Manakintowne; and

WHEREAS, on December 5, 1700, the House of Burgesses granted the Huguenots a royal charter, which established the King William Parish at Manakintowne as a parish of the Church of England; and

WHEREAS, the Huguenots, led by Benjamin de Joux, constructed a small octagonal church that was located at the boundary of their land; a second building was constructed in 1710 and a third church was built at a more central location at the junction of River Road and Ferry Road in 1730; and

WHEREAS, Manakin Episcopal Church's third building was occupied for well over 100 years until a fourth church was constructed in 1895; the current building, located on Huguenot Trail and modeled after William Byrd's historic church at Westover, was erected in 1954 and equipped with modern lighting and heating to better serve the congregation; and

WHEREAS, Manakin Episcopal Church remains a vibrant house of worship that serves individuals and families of all ages and backgrounds through regular services, special events, and other programs; and

WHEREAS, Manakin Episcopal Church has long been a focal point of community life in the area, maintaining active ministries and outreach programs to enhance the quality of life for both the members of the congregation and all local residents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate of Virginia, That Manakin Episcopal Church hereby be commended on the occasion of its 325th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Manakin Episcopal Church as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's admiration for the church's storied history and legacy of contributions to Powhatan County and the surrounding communities.

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