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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 769

Offered February 17, 2025

*Commending Gary E. Penn.*

Patron—Zehr

WHEREAS, Gary E. Penn, a distinguished law-enforcement officer and esteemed public servant, retired from the Campbell County Sheriff's Office on September 30, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Gary Penn began his law-enforcement career in 1997 with the Danville Police Department and a few years later joined the Pittsylvania County Sheriff's Office and accepted a promotion to special investigations in coordination with the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives task force in Roanoke; and

WHEREAS, from 2007 to 2009, Gary Penn assisted 22 federal gun and drug cases and worked with other federal agencies; from 2010 to 2015, he joined the Altavista Police Department (APD) on a joint task force with the Campbell County Sheriff's Office, after which he resumed his role as a general investigations and shift sergeant until he received a promotion to first sergeant; and

WHEREAS, Gary Penn spearheaded a number of impactful initiatives during his time with the APD, including Altavista's National Night Out event and its Shop with a Cop program, fostering positive relationships between the department and the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Gary Penn joined the Campbell County Sheriff's Office as a school resource officer, and he worked tirelessly to ensure the safety and well-being of students at several Campbell County elementary schools for several years; in 2020, he was promoted to community relations and crime prevention sergeant; and

WHEREAS, Gary Penn has shown extraordinary dedication to helping vulnerable members of the community throughout his career, and has made great efforts to cultivate productive partnerships with local schools, churches, businesses, civic organizations, and surrounding jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, beyond his work in law-enforcement, Gary Penn has given generously of his time in support of the community through his involvement with the Virginia Moose Association District #10, the YMCA Altavista board of directors, the Rustburg Ruritan Club, Rustburg United Methodist Church, and Habitat for Humanity; and

WHEREAS, Gary Penn's remarkable efforts have garnered numerous recognitions, including 2008 Deputy of the Year by the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 336 and 2022 Citizen of the Year by the Rustburg Ruritan Club; and

WHEREAS, on November 5, 2024, Gary Penn was elected to serve on the Altavista Town Council, starting a new chapter in an illustrious career devoted to serving and protecting others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That Gary E. Penn hereby be commended for his legacy of service on the occasion of his retirement from the Campbell County Sheriff's Office; and, be it

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