

2024 SPECIAL SESSION I

ENROLLED

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 917

Commending the Culpeper Minute Men Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, April 2, 2025

WHEREAS, from October 20 to October 26, 2025, the Culpeper Minute Men Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Culpeper Minute Battalion's mobilization and historic victories over Great Britain during the American Revolution; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Convention of July 1775 authorized the establishment of 16 military districts throughout Virginia, each of which would establish one regular company and a minute battalion comprising 10 companies; and

WHEREAS, the Culpeper Military District was one such military district, made up of men from Orange, Culpeper, and Fauquier Counties; and

WHEREAS, the Culpeper Minute Battalion, also known as the Culpeper Minute Men, and the Culpeper Regular Company first mustered in early September 1775 on Philip Clayton's "Old Field," which is now part of Yowell Meadow Park in Culpeper; and

WHEREAS, the Culpeper Minute Men were placed under the command of Colonel Lawrence Taliaferro from Orange, Lieutenant Colonel Edward Stevens from Culpeper, and Major Thomas Marshall from Fauquier, and the Culpeper Regular Company was placed under the command of Colonel John Green of Culpeper; and

WHEREAS, the Culpeper Minute Men proudly held the distinction as the only battalion in the 16 military districts that actually fielded a combat-capable volunteer force of multiple companies, including a battalion headquarters, on short notice; and

WHEREAS, the Culpeper Regular Company and the Culpeper Minute Battalion's 10 companies marched in October 1775 to Williamsburg to support actions against royal and loyalist troops under Royal Governor Lord Dunmore; and

WHEREAS, the Culpeper Regular Company and the Culpeper Minute Men responded quickly and efficiently in a moment of critical need for Virginia and the fledgling nation; and

WHEREAS, the Culpeper Regular Company was the first company to arrive in Williamsburg, resulting in Colonel Green's designation as the senior company commander and his company's designation as the senior company; they were placed under the leadership of Patrick Henry, who was serving as the commander-in-chief of Virginia forces; and

WHEREAS, five of the 10 companies of the Culpeper Minute Men augmented William Woodford's 2nd Virginia Regiment, joining six regular companies arriving from throughout Virginia, while the other five companies of the Culpeper Minute Men returned home due to a lack of arms and military supplies; and

WHEREAS, William Woodford assigned Captain Abraham Buford to form a mounted company of volunteer Culpeper Minute Men, who were known for their marksmanship; the company deployed to Hampton, where on October 27, 1775, they repulsed a British naval force using accurate, long-range small arms fire; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Culpeper Minute Men represented 30 percent of the American fighting force at the Battle of Great Bridge on December 9, 1775, the first land battle in the Southern colonies and a historic victory for Virginia and America; and

WHEREAS, the victory at Great Bridge forced Lord Dunmore's royal forces to retreat to Portsmouth and eventually retreat from Virginia altogether in 1776, marking the end of royal authority in the Colony of Virginia forever and allowing other Virginia units to freely support George Washington's Continental Army; and

WHEREAS, in this way, the heroic men from Orange, Culpeper, and Fauquier Counties, as members of the Culpeper Regular Company and Culpeper Minute Battalion, played a significant role in securing independence for Virginia and America; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the Culpeper Minute Men Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution hereby be commended for honoring the history and legacy of the men who fought for the nation as members of the Culpeper Regular Company and the Culpeper Minute Battalion during the Revolutionary War; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Culpeper Minute Men Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for Culpeper's unique contributions to the early defense of the nation.

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