

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 85

Commending Katie Register.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 2, 2026
Agreed to by the Senate, February 5, 2026

WHEREAS, Katie Register, who dedicated her career to environmental conservation and public service, leaving an indelible mark on the Commonwealth, retired from her role as the executive director of Clean Virginia Waterways in 2024; and

WHEREAS, Katie Register led Clean Virginia Waterways, formerly a program of Longwood University, with passion, vision, and an unwavering commitment to protecting and preserving the Commonwealth's waterways for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Katie Register was a tireless advocate for reducing plastic pollution, improving waste management, and fostering environmental education, inspiring individuals and communities across Virginia to take action for the health of their local ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, Katie Register spearheaded numerous initiatives to combat marine debris, including organizing statewide cleanup efforts that engaged more than 120,000 volunteers and removed more than five million pounds of debris from Virginia's rivers, streams, and shorelines; and

WHEREAS, Katie Register is a pioneer in marine debris research from cigarette butts to abandoned vessels, and she is a coauthor of the Virginia Marine Debris Reduction Plan, the first marine debris reduction plan on the east coast of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Katie Register served as a mentor and leader to countless students, educators, and environmental professionals, fostering a culture of collaboration and innovation in the field of environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, under Katie Register's leadership, Clean Virginia Waterways became a model program recognized regionally and nationally for its impactful work, which included partnerships with government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and businesses to advance shared goals; and

WHEREAS, Katie Register's dedication to environmental conservation earned her numerous accolades and the respect of her colleagues and peers, who celebrate her unwavering commitment to creating a healthier and more sustainable future; and

WHEREAS, Katie Register's legacy with Clean Virginia Waterways continues to inspire individuals to cherish and protect the Commonwealth's natural resources; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Katie Register on the occasion of her retirement for her outstanding contributions to environmental stewardship and public service through Clean Virginia Waterways; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Katie Register as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for her contributions to the Commonwealth and best wishes for a joyful and fulfilling retirement.

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