

2026 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 31

Commending the Rappahannock Hunt.

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

WHEREAS, the Rappahannock Hunt, a hunting club located among the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, has provided opportunities for fox hunts, trail rides, races, social events, and other activities to members of the community throughout the region for 100 years; and

WHEREAS, foxhunting has deep roots in the Rappahannock region, and the area has been referred to as the “cradle of the American Foxhound”; George Washington was known as an avid foxhunter, along with many other prominent Virginians who have practiced the sport throughout the years; and

WHEREAS, the Rappahannock Hunt was established in 1926 by Hugh Bywaters and Joseph B. Johnson of Sperryville, who served as joint masters of foxhounds for nine years; the pair were supported by Burrell Frank Bywaters of Olive, a respected breeder whose hounds served as foundation stock for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, the Rappahannock Hunt was first recognized by the Masters of Foxhounds Association of North America (MFHA) in 1939; the club was inactive during World War II, but ultimately regained its recognized status after the war and continues to be affiliated with the MFHA; and

WHEREAS, the Rappahannock Hunt began holding popular point-to-point races at Leon R. Greenaway's Leeway Farm in 1951 and opened its first kennel at J.W. Fletcher's Thornton Hill in 1952 to house a gift of several hounds from the Orange County Hunt; and

WHEREAS, the current territory of the Rappahannock Hunt extends from the Blue Ridge Mountains to the plains south and west of Fredericksburg through parts of the Counties of Culpeper, Madison, Orange, Rappahannock, and Spotsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Rappahannock Hunt come from a wide range of backgrounds, from farmers and small business owners to health care workers, attorneys, teachers, and students, all of whom are united by their respect for nature and the Commonwealth's natural resources and their passion for the august traditions of foxhunting; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the Rappahannock Hunt hereby be commended on the occasion of its 100th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Rappahannock Hunt as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for its work to promote conservation and preserve hunting traditions in the Commonwealth.

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