

2024 SPECIAL SESSION I

ENROLLED

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 800

Commending Commander James Kelso Cullen II, USCG.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, July 18, 2024

WHEREAS, Commander James Kelso Cullen II, USCG, an honorable veteran and distinguished law-enforcement officer who has valorously served his country for more than 27 years as a member of the United States Coast Guard, retires in 2024; and

WHEREAS, James Cullen embarked upon his career in law enforcement in 1985 as a foot patrol officer and emergency medical services technician and rose through the ranks to ultimately serve as a municipal law-enforcement executive in New Jersey for 30 years; and

WHEREAS, James Cullen enlisted with the United States Coast Guard (USCG) on September 11, 1997, as a reservist and four years later became a commissioned officer; and

WHEREAS, on his first day of active military duty, James Cullen was in the New York Harbor on 9/11, leading an ad hoc team in response to the World Trade Center attacks and assisting with the evacuation of Manhattan; and

WHEREAS, field promoted to chief of police for the USCG in New York and New Jersey a day later, James Cullen took charge of supervising tactical law-enforcement teams at several high-visibility events in the region; and

WHEREAS, James Cullen supported the United States military's operations abroad by volunteering as a combat medic in a field hospital in Afghanistan while serving as the officer in charge for USCG RAID Team XI and by embedding with the United States Army as a federal customs border clearance agent to combat contraband smuggling in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Oman; and

WHEREAS, with his breadth of knowledge and expertise, James Cullen oversaw all training for USCG's law enforcement, Customs/HAZMAT operations, patrol boats, and port security units, as well as embassy personnel deploying to the Middle East, from 2011 to 2014; and

WHEREAS, James Cullen was an original member of the USCG Reserve Judge Advocate General program and supported the Joint Chiefs of Staff as a planner, serving in Jordan to assist the evacuation of Syrian refugees fleeing the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria in 2015; and

WHEREAS, that same year, James Cullen took the helm of the Weapon Systems Branch of the USCG, overseeing the USCG's weapons systems and firing range facilities worldwide; and

WHEREAS, after serving in the command cadre of the United States Navy Coastal Riverine Group Two and as chief of the USCG's Assessment, Inspection, and Audit Governance Office in Norfolk, James Cullen became the first-ever chief evaluation officer on the commandant's staff at USCG headquarters in Washington, D.C., in 2020; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his extraordinary service, James Cullen has received a plethora of awards and honors, including a citation from the U.S. House of Representatives, the Joint Chiefs of Staff Badge, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and the Coast Guard Meritorious Service Medal; and

WHEREAS, beyond his military service, James Cullen has given generously of his time in support of the Portsmouth community as a deputy sheriff supervisor and through a group of military volunteers that he created in coordination with the mayor of Portsmouth's Military Affairs Committee; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That Commander James Kelso Cullen II, USCG, hereby be commended on the occasion of his retirement; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Commander James Kelso Cullen II, USCG, as an expression of the House of Delegates' high regard and respect for his service and best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement.

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