

**REPORT ON SILVER SERVICE
FOR THE U.S.S. VIRGINIA
TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA**



House Document No. 18

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
Department of Purchases and Supply
Richmond
1977**

November 15, 1976

To the General Assembly of Virginia

Chapter 352 of the Acts of Assembly of 1973 authorized a committee consisting of the Speaker of the House of Delegates and the Chairmen of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Delegates and the Senate Committee on Finance to purchase and transfer to the Secretary of the Navy a suitable silver service for use on the guided missile frigate U. S. S. Virginia.

Following an inquiry into recent practice in similar instances, the committee determined that a punch bowl service would be an appropriate gift on behalf of the Commonwealth. Accordingly, the committee secured several cost estimates and determined that the cost for comparable items varied little from one dealer to another.

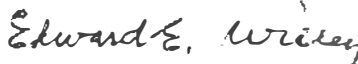
The committee then commissioned Mr. William deMatteo, master silversmith of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, to execute the silver service, consisting of a three-gallon punch bowl, ladle, thirty six cups, and three trays, in sterling silver. The pieces, all hand-made and engraved, were patterned on eighteenth-century designs. As a gesture of its interest in the project, the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation offered a reduction from the retail price of over 10%. The total cost to the Commonwealth was \$11,000.

Upon receipt of the silver service the committee transmitted it to the Governor, so that, in accordance with the statute, he could present it to the Secretary of the Navy at commissioning ceremonies for the U. S. S. Virginia on September 11, 1976 in Norfolk.

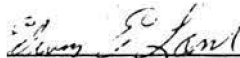
A copy of the Act authorizing the purchase of the silver service and a copy of a letter from Governor Mills E. Godwin, Jr. advising that the service was presented to the Secretary of the Navy are attached hereto and made a part of this report.



John Warch Cooke
Speaker of the House of Delegates



Edward E. Willey, Chairman
Senate Committee on Finance



Edward E. Lane, Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations

CHAPTER 352

An Act to authorize the purchase and transfer to the Secretary of the Navy of a silver service for use on the guided missile frigate U.S.S. Virginia.

[H 1225]

Approved March 15, 1973

Whereas, the Commonwealth presented the Secretary of the Navy with a valuable silver service for use on the battleship *U.S.S. Virginia*; and

Whereas, when the battleship *U.S.S. Virginia* was decommissioned, the Secretary of the Navy returned the silver service to the Commonwealth; and

Whereas, the Secretary of the Navy has recently announced that the guided missile frigate DLGN-38 which is now under construction will be named the *U.S.S. Virginia*; and

Whereas, it is appropriate that the historical silver service remain in the Commonwealth but that recognition be given by the Commonwealth to her namesake vessel; now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. A committee, to consist of the Speaker of the House of Delegates, as chairman, and the Chairmen of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Delegates and the Senate Committee on Finance, is hereby authorized to purchase and transfer to the Secretary of the Navy an appropriate silver service, for use on the guided missile frigate *U.S.S. Virginia*.

The original silver service used on the battleship *U.S.S. Virginia* shall remain on display in the Governor's mansion. The Governor of the Commonwealth or his duly authorized representative shall present the new silver service to the Secretary of the Navy for use aboard the guided missile frigate *U.S.S. Virginia* when the *U.S.S. Virginia* is commissioned.

2. There is hereby appropriated from the General Fund of the State treasury a sum sufficient to be expended in accordance with the provisions of this Act.



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Richmond 23219

Mills E. Godwin, Jr.
Governor

November 12, 1976

The Honorable John Warren Cooke
Speaker House of Delegates
Richmond, Virginia

Dear Mr. Speaker:

This is to document the receipt of the silver service purchased by a committee consisting of the Speaker of the House of Delegates, Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Delegates and Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance as authorized by an act of the General Assembly approved March 16, 1973.

The transmittal of the silver service to the Secretary of the Navy for use aboard the guided missile frigate USS VIRGINIA was made at the commissioning ceremonies on Saturday, September 11, 1976.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mills E. Godwin, Jr.", with a circular mark to the right of the signature.

Mills E. Godwin, Jr.

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