



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
**HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
RICHMOND

**WILLIAM J. HOWELL**  
SPEAKER

TWENTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:  
RULES (CHAIRMAN)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
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## **Statement of Speaker William J. Howell**

-- On Day of Mourning to Honor the Loss of Service Members in Afghanistan --

**RICHMOND, VA** – Virginia House of Delegates Speaker William J. Howell (R-Stafford) issued the following statement today, a day of mourning across the Commonwealth:

“Last week, 30 service members were killed in eastern Afghanistan in a helicopter crash. Many of the brave men and women aboard were Navy SEALs with ties to Virginia, particularly our military community down in Virginia Beach. Across the Commonwealth, we feel the loss of these brave service members and send our thoughts and prayer to the families affected by this tragedy.”

“Governor McDonnell designated today, August 12, as a day of mourning in honor of the sacrifice of these service members and their families.”

“Virginia cherishes its proud military heritage and we honor our brave veterans by trying to make Virginia the best state in the country for veterans and their families. I hope you all will join me in taking a moment today to reflect on the contribution of our military community here in Virginia and share in the loss of 30 service members who gave their lives to see ours secured.”