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VNDIA Elects New Chairman

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RICHMOND – Rear Admiral Robert R. Fountain, U.S. Navy (Ret.) was elected Chairman of the Virginia National Defense Industrial Authority (VNDIA) Board of Directors at its quarterly meeting on October 19, 2011 held on the campus of the University of Mary Washington. Adm. Fountain succeeded Mr. G. William Beale who had served as Acting Chairman since July 1, 2011. A member of the VNDIA board since his appointment by the Virginia Senate Rules Committee in July of 2006, Adm. Fountain has also served as Chair of VNDIA's Local Coordination, Support & Communication Committee.

Admiral Fountain is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis and was promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral in May 1979. A highly decorated submarine commander, during the course of his Navy career he served on destroyers, cruisers, diesel and nuclear-powered attack and ballistic missile submarines in weapons and engineering billets, and spent 21 of the first 23 years of his commissioned service at sea. Prior to his retirement, he served as Director of ASW and Undersea Warfare Systems, Navy Sea Systems Command, in Washington. Following his retirement from the Navy in 1985, Adm. Fountain accepted a position as Director of Offshore Systems in the Marine Systems Division of Honeywell, Inc. in Seattle. In 1988 he was named Vice President of Advanced Marine Systems Operation in Minneapolis, where he managed the company's underwater robotics and advanced acoustics projects. Subsequently, he served as Honeywell's Director of Resources and Technology until his retirement.

Admiral Fountain continues to be active in civic affairs. He is a former member and chairman of the Westmoreland County Industrial Development Authority and Virginia's River Country Regional Economic Development Partnership. He has served as member and chairman of the board of Rappahannock

Community College and was more recently appointed to the State Board for Community Colleges, the governing body of the Virginia Community College System, by Governor Robert McDonnell. Adm. Fountain also serves on the Board of Directors of the Fredericksburg Regional Military Affairs Council.

“Under Adm. Fountain’s leadership of the Local Coordination, Support and Communication Committee, VNDIA has conducted the state’s primary program of outreach to Virginia installations to receive face-to-face briefings from senior commanding officers. This active call program gives local, regional and state policy makers access to in-depth information on both challenges and opportunities being faced as defense missions change to meet national security demands. “Having retired military leaders, such as Adm. Fountain working on the Commonwealth’s behalf to maintain a positive and supportive relationship with Department of Defense personnel reflects Virginia’s commitment to defense investment in the Commonwealth,” says R. Stanton Scott, VNDIA Executive Director. “We welcome his leadership as board chairman and greatly appreciate his continued commitment to this important effort for Virginia.” In addition to Mr. Beale, Adm. Fountain joins a distinguished group of VNDIA Chairmen, including Gen. Robert Magnus, USMC (Ret.) and The Honorable Joe Reeder.

The Virginia National Defense Industrial Authority was established by the Virginia General Assembly in 2005 with the mission to maintain a comprehensive understanding of defense investment in Virginia and advocate for U.S. Department of Defense operations in the Commonwealth. With defense spending in Virginia now exceeding \$57 billion annually and supporting nearly a million jobs, Virginia recognizes the integral role this investment plays in the state’s economy. VNDIA , now operating in an environment of looming federal budget cuts and mandated efficiency efforts, continues its dedicated effort to sustain and enhance Virginia’s standing as a “great place for defense business,” both strategically and efficiently.

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