

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA -- 2000 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 470

Commemorating the lifetime achievements of Catherine Filene Shouse.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 10, 2000

Agreed to by the Senate, March 10, 2000

WHEREAS, as a child, Catherine Filene Shouse cherished visits to her parents' country home and the visits of her mother's musician friends, who filled the hall with song; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of a successful department store manager, Catherine Filene Shouse grew up with a love of music; and

WHEREAS, Catherine Filene Shouse moved to Northern Virginia in the 1920s and bought the 52-acre Wolf Trap farm in 1930 for \$5,200, which was more than half of her diminished fortune at the time; and

WHEREAS, Catherine Filene Shouse sold eggs, milk, bread, dogs, and horses, and through shrewd investments, recouped much of her fortune and was able to purchase an additional 48 acres; and

WHEREAS, memories of the musical gatherings of her mother influenced Catherine Filene Shouse to transform her 100 acres of rolling farmland in Northern Virginia into the only National Park dedicated to the performing arts: Wolf Trap Park; and

WHEREAS, Catherine Filene Shouse donated her time and money to musically inclined philanthropic causes; and

WHEREAS, Catherine Filene Shouse began the first chamber music concerts at the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C., and sponsored annual concerts for children; and

WHEREAS, Catherine Filene Shouse served on the National Symphony Board; and

WHEREAS, Catherine Filene Shouse created a Hungarian Relief Fund and a fund to assist German youth after World War II; and

WHEREAS, Catherine Filene Shouse donated \$2 million and 100 acres to the Department of the Interior for the formation of an outdoor cultural attraction, and in 1971 Wolf Trap Park was dedicated; and

WHEREAS, Catherine Filene Shouse was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Gerald Ford; and

WHEREAS, when Wolf Trap Park suffered fire damage in 1982, Catherine Filene Shouse raised \$9 million to match a federal loan for rebuilding the park; and

WHEREAS, Catherine Filene Shouse was recently nominated as a Citizen of the Century by a local newspaper in recognition of her accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Catherine Filene Shouse died at her home in Naples, Florida, in 1994; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly recognize and commemorate the many contributions of Catherine Filene Shouse to Northern Virginia, Fairfax County, and the Commonwealth; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Wolf Trap Park Foundation as an expression of the General Assembly's appreciation for the life of Catherine Filene Shouse and the continued success of Wolf Trap Park.

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