

2008 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 361

Offered February 6, 2008

Commending the Garden Club of Virginia on the occasion of its 75th anniversary of Historic Garden Week in Virginia.

Patron—Howell, W.J.

WHEREAS, the Garden Club of Virginia each year proudly sponsors Historic Garden Week in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, 2008 marks the 75th anniversary of the Garden Club of Virginia's Historic Garden Week tours, which have occurred every year since 1929, except for a period during World War II; and

WHEREAS, the popular nine-day Historic Garden Week, which will be held April 19-27, 2008, at the peak of springtime color in Virginia, will attract over 30,000 visitors to three dozen tours statewide, featuring more than 250 of the Commonwealth's most beautiful gardens, homes, and historic landmarks during "America's Largest Open House"; and

WHEREAS, proceeds from Historic Garden Week tours are used to restore historic gardens and landscapes throughout the Commonwealth, including properties owned by George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and Woodrow Wilson and other important Virginia historical sites; and

WHEREAS, dedicated Garden Club of Virginia members have raised more than \$13 million over the past seven decades to restore historic properties in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, these historic landmarks, together with private homes and gardens on Historic Garden Week tours, attract visitors from Virginia, other states across the country, and nations around the world and greatly benefit the economy of the Commonwealth through increased tourism; and

WHEREAS, widespread publicity for the Historic Garden Week tours in leading magazines and newspapers, on the Internet, and in other media enhances the image of the Commonwealth as a major tourism destination; and

WHEREAS, in addition to historic restoration, the mission of the Garden Club of Virginia is to conserve Virginia's diverse natural resources, inspire a love of gardening, and provide education to club members and the general public; and

WHEREAS, the Garden Club of Virginia's Historic Garden Week tours and the club's many exemplary restoration projects help to promote and preserve the Commonwealth's rich and distinguished history; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend and congratulate the Garden Club of Virginia and its outstanding members on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of Historic Garden Week in Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Garden Club of Virginia as an expression of the General Assembly's gratitude for the club's numerous achievements and best wishes for a successful tour April 19-27, 2008.

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