

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 655

Commending Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, January 14, 2011

Agreed to by the Senate, January 20, 2011

WHEREAS, Catherine Filene Shouse donated 100 acres of her Vienna, Virginia, farmland to the United States government, and funds for the construction of a 6,800 seat indoor/outdoor theater resulting in the creation of Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts; and

WHEREAS, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in Vienna, Virginia, founded by Catherine Filene Shouse, has devoted the past four decades to presenting and creating excellent and innovative performing arts programs for the enrichment, education, and enjoyment of diverse audiences and participants; and

WHEREAS, Wolf Trap, in partnership with the National Park Service, is recognized for its many contributions to the Commonwealth and the nation during the 40 years since its opening as Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, unique as America's only national park with this designation; and

WHEREAS, Wolf Trap Foundation has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to its mission to provide high-quality, accessible performing arts and education programs to the community; and

WHEREAS, Wolf Trap has served as a leader in developing and providing arts education programs throughout Virginia, across the country, and around the world for people of all ages and diverse backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, in 1971 the Wolf Trap Opera Company was established, providing thousands of emerging artists an exemplary residency training program, while bringing world-class opera performances to audiences in Northern Virginia; and

WHEREAS, in 1981 the Wolf Trap Institute for Early Childhood Learning Through the Arts was founded to enhance teacher excellence and children's learning by integrating the performing arts into early childhood education, employing Teaching Artists to serve an estimated 35,000 children, their parents, and caregivers each year and providing proven professional development for educators; and

WHEREAS, Wolf Trap has played an important role in expanding the American repertoire by commissioning artistic works, including its nationally acclaimed *Face of America* series, which uses the rich language of the performing arts to celebrate the diverse people, histories, and landscapes that exist in fellow national parks across the country; and

WHEREAS, Wolf Trap has led the way in greening the performing arts by establishing the first formal Go Green program at a permanent presenting venue, leveraging the power of the arts to encourage arts organizations, artists, and the general public to become stewards of the environment; and

WHEREAS, Wolf Trap has provided lasting memories that millions of people will treasure over their lifetimes, through unique performing arts experiences and arts education programs; and

WHEREAS, in 2011 Wolf Trap celebrates 40 years of service to the Commonwealth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend and congratulate the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts for the important cultural contributions it has provided to the community for the past four decades; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare copies of this resolution for presentation to Terrence Jones, President and CEO, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts; Karen Pittleman, Director of Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts; and Gary Tabach, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts as an expression of the General Assembly's appreciation for these contributions and best wishes for a happy 40th anniversary.

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