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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 864

Offered February 14, 2011

*Commending the Charlottesville High School Orchestra.*

Patron—Toscano; Senator: Deeds

WHEREAS, the Charlottesville High School Orchestra String Ensemble is one of 20 high school and university orchestras in the world to have been awarded the high honor of an invitation to the Florence International Youth Orchestra Festival in July 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Charlottesville High School Orchestra is one of the largest high school orchestra programs in Virginia and has gained a national reputation for excellence; and

WHEREAS, the Charlottesville High School Orchestra has garnered top prizes at music festivals across the United States, including New York City, Chicago, Atlanta, Boston, Orlando, and Dallas, among others; and

WHEREAS, in 1998 the Charlottesville High School Orchestra won second place at the International Youth and Music Festival in Vienna, Austria, and, in 2007, won the Grand Championship of the London Heritage Music Festival; and

WHEREAS, since 1987, the Charlottesville High School Orchestra has achieved a Superior Rating in Grade VI at all of their District Festival performances, has performed by invitation at five Virginia Music Education Association conferences, and has sold over \$50,000 in CDs; and

WHEREAS, the Charlottesville High School Orchestra came under the direction of Laura Mulligan Thomas in 1982 and, in the three decades under her direction, the Orchestra has grown from eight to 140 student musicians, including students from both Charlottesville and Albemarle County; and

WHEREAS, as director of the Charlottesville High School Orchestra, Laura Mulligan Thomas has been honored as Charlottesville's Woman of the Year in 1999 by the Virginia Women's Forum, was named one of Charlottesville's Top 25 Citizens by the news and arts weekly publication *C-Ville*, and has received numerous teaching awards including Charlottesville's Distinguished Teacher Award, the Golden Apple Award, the Piedmont Council of the Arts award, and Phi Delta Kappa's Outstanding Educator in Central Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the success of the Charlottesville High School Orchestra is an example of outstanding educational achievement and community support and has made the Charlottesville and Albemarle community proud; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby recognize and commend the Charlottesville High School Orchestra for its long record of outstanding musical and educational excellence; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Charlottesville High School Orchestra as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and best wishes for a successful trip to Florence.

INTRODUCED

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