

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 128

*Commending Staunton Steam Laundry.*

Agreed to by the Senate, January 26, 2012  
Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 3, 2012

WHEREAS, in its 100th year of operation, Staunton Steam Laundry has grown since the days when horse-drawn carriages picked up shirt collars and cuffs to be washed and starched into a full-service textile cleaning and supply company serving customers in Virginia, West Virginia, and Maryland; and

WHEREAS, today, Staunton Steam Laundry offers linen, uniform, mat, and mop rentals; restroom supply services; linen and uniform sales; and commercial laundry and dry cleaning services to companies and individuals in the greater Staunton area and along the Interstate 81 corridor; and

WHEREAS, Staunton Steam Laundry has been in the same family since Robert C. Beam, Sr., and a partner purchased New Method Laundry in 1912; in the early days the company's work included delivering laundry to cadets at nearby Augusta Military Academy; and

WHEREAS, over the decades, Staunton Steam Laundry expanded into commercial laundry and textile services, realizing that many of its customers were industries that had chosen to locate their operations in the beautiful Valley of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, Staunton Steam Laundry's 11 routes serve more than 1,200 customers; the company's clients include the lodging and hospitality industry, medical and nursing facilities, and several poultry processing plants; and

WHEREAS, Staunton Steam Laundry proudly operates near downtown Staunton in three attached buildings totaling 50,000 square feet; the company also has three dry cleaning drop-off stores, two in Staunton and one in Verona; and

WHEREAS, with 80 employees averaging 12 years of service and a loyal management staff, Staunton Steam Laundry is one of the largest employers in Staunton, and its motto is "Simply Service Since 1912—100 Years Young"; and

WHEREAS, Robert Beam's family continued to run and expand the company after his death in 1945; in the 1960s, Robert C. "Bobby" Beam, Jr., son of the founder, and his wife, Betty, assumed ownership of Staunton Steam Laundry; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Beam, age 89, still works at Staunton Steam Laundry three days a week, and the company is now owned by Bobby Beam's three children: Lee is president/chief executive officer, Tom is vice president/treasurer, and Becky is corporate secretary; and

WHEREAS, Staunton Steam Laundry is a member of several associations that promote the textile rental and dry cleaning industries and encourage resource conservation; the company also belongs to the Greater Augusta Chamber of Commerce and other business organizations; and

WHEREAS, Staunton Steam Laundry is a proud supporter of many local organizations, including the American Frontier Culture Museum, Historic Staunton Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, the Valley Conservation Council, and the Verona Food Pantry; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Staunton Steam Laundry on its centennial; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Staunton Steam Laundry as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and best wishes for continued success in its next 100 years.

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