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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 910

Offered February 14, 2013

Designating the third full week in March, in 2013 and in each succeeding year, as Richmond Ballet, The State Ballet of Virginia, Leap Week in Virginia.

 Patron—Massie

 Unanimous consent to introduce

 Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the Richmond Ballet, The State Ballet of Virginia, is a professional, not-for-profit arts organization dedicated to the promotion, preservation, and continuing evolution of the art form of ballet according to specific aesthetic and institutional values established by the vision of Artistic Director Stoner Winslett and acknowledged and supported by the board of trustees; and

WHEREAS, the values of the Richmond Ballet are best revealed through the specific choices made regarding the programming philosophy, the performance production values, and the selection of dancers and other artistic staff; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond Ballet continues its 54-year commitment to producing performances of the highest quality, keeping meaningful works of dance alive, and producing and fostering new works that remain true to its values; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond Ballet also offers dance training and encourages the love of ballet throughout the community with the goal of, above all, awakening and uplifting the human spirit of both audiences and dancers; and

WHEREAS, the School of Richmond Ballet offers training for students by a world-class faculty in a state-of-the-art facility shared with Richmond Ballet professional company dancers; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond Ballet delivers exceptional education and outreach programs, such as *Minds In Motion*, which take the joy and discipline of dance into schools to inspire a new generation of art lovers; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond Ballet provides a source of civic pride: the very best of dance-classic ballets and contemporary works by the brightest emerging and established choreographers-performed in Richmond by professional dancers, the ultimate artist-athletes; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond Ballet is a cultural asset for the entire Commonwealth through the professional company and second company (Richmond Ballet II) performances in schools and on tour throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond Ballet has gained national and international recognition, having been invited to perform in New York City (at The Joyce Theater in 2005, 2007, and 2010) and London (at the Royal Opera House Linbury Studio Theatre in 2012), considered to be two of the world's dance capitals; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond Ballet will make its debut in the nation's capital in June 2013 for the Kennedy Center's biennial Ballet Across America series, which showcases the talent of United States ballet companies; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond Ballet will present Leap Week, a unique weeklong series of community events in celebration of its past achievements, future possibilities, and the region it calls home, from March 17 - 24, 2013; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly designate the third full week in March, in 2013 and in each succeeding year, as Richmond Ballet, The State Ballet of Virginia, Leap Week in Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit a copy of this resolution to the Richmond Ballet, The State Ballet of Virginia, so that members of the organization may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates post the designation of this week on the General Assembly's website.

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