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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 166

Offered February 12, 2013

Commending Long Branch Nature Center.

Patrons—Hope, Brink, Krupicka, and Lopez

WHEREAS, Long Branch Nature Center, an organization that encourages the enjoyment, understanding, and preservation of the area's natural and cultural resources, celebrated a proud 40-year history of serving a diverse urban audience in Arlington County and nearby communities in 2012; and

WHEREAS, located in a converted 1940s-era house, Long Branch Nature Center opened its doors to the public on November 12, 1972; and

WHEREAS, Long Branch Nature Center offers approximately 500 nature programs for adults, children, students, and families each year; 20,000 annual visitors from around the region come to the center to view live animal exhibits or make use of the center's Discovery Room; and

WHEREAS, the grounds surrounding Long Branch Nature Center are filled with beautiful native plant gardens where visitors can learn the important role of native plants in sustaining local wildlife; and

WHEREAS, Long Branch Nature Center has nurtured countless budding naturalists over the years, some of whom visited the center as children and later joined the team as volunteers, part-time employees, or professional naturalists; and

WHEREAS, over the years, hundreds of volunteers have played a key role in Long Branch Nature Center's success and service to the community; volunteers have provided animal care, staffed nature programs, removed invasive exotic plants, and cared for the center's native gardens; and

WHEREAS, Long Branch Nature Center has a long tradition of working with the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America; the groups have engaged in trail work, stream clean-up projects, and small construction projects; and

WHEREAS, Long Branch Nature Center helped found the Arlington Regional Master Naturalists, an organization that trains and certifies volunteer naturalists to educate the community about local natural history and encourage environmental conservation; the group has certified over 150 volunteers; and

WHEREAS, taking pride in its four decades of service, Long Branch Nature Center is firmly focused on achieving more success in the future and continuing its work to connect the community with the local environment; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That Long Branch Nature Center hereby be commended on the occasion of its 40th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Long Branch Nature Center as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for the organization's commitment to encouraging the appreciation and preservation of nature.