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## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 192

Offered February 15, 2013

*Commending Martha Rollins.*

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Patrons—McClellan, Peace, Carr, Loupassi, McQuinn, Morrissey, and O'Bannon

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WHEREAS, Martha Rollins—the founder and chief executive officer of Boaz & Ruth, a nonprofit organization in the City of Richmond—retired in 2012 after a decade of exceptional service to the community; and

WHEREAS, the award-winning owner of a successful antiques store, Martha Rollins sought ways to provide opportunities and resources to less fortunate members of the community; and

WHEREAS, Martha Rollins founded Boaz & Ruth in 2002 as a faith-based outreach organization that builds community spirit; provides jobs to local individuals, including some who have been previously incarcerated; and encourages economic revitalization, particularly in the Highland Park neighborhood of the City of Richmond; and

WHEREAS, known for her inclusiveness and enthusiasm for the betterment of the community, Martha Rollins helped build Boaz & Ruth into a social enterprise that has helped hundreds of people find work and brought thousands of area residents together for a common good; and

WHEREAS, under Martha Rollins' outstanding leadership, Boaz & Ruth spearheaded initiatives that ultimately helped lower recidivism rates in the area and lower crime rates in the Highland Park neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Martha Rollins' legacy of excellence is still evident at the company, which recently entered the Job Raising Challenge, a fundraising competition between 74 organizations that promotes sustainable, scalable employment solutions; and

WHEREAS, as the only organization from the City of Richmond and one of only two Virginia organizations selected to participate in the competition, which is held from January 21 to March 1, 2013, Boaz & Ruth is working to raise awareness of Martha Rollins' vision on a national level; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That Martha Rollins hereby be commended on the occasion of her retirement as chief executive officer of Boaz & Ruth; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Martha Rollins as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for her hard work and success in bettering the lives of her fellow City of Richmond residents.

INTRODUCED

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