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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 193

Offered March 3, 2014

*Commending Mill Mountain Theatre.*

Patrons—Edwards and Smith; Delegates: Habeeb and Head

WHEREAS, Mill Mountain Theatre, the Roanoke region's professional, year-round theatre, celebrates 50 years of providing education, entertainment, and enjoyment to the community in 2014; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1964, Mill Mountain Theatre was originally known as Roanoke Summer Theatre and was incorporated as Mill Mountain Playhouse Company in 1966; and

WHEREAS, after Mill Mountain Playhouse Company's building was destroyed by fire in 1976, the company first resided in the Grandin Theatre before settling at the current location at Roanoke's Center in the Square in 1986; the move began a highly successful revitalization of downtown Roanoke; and

WHEREAS, Mill Mountain Theatre developed a partnership with the Actors' Equity Association, drawing talent from around the country and opening new opportunities for local actors; and

WHEREAS, in the 1980s, Mill Mountain Theatre developed an education program, the Mill Mountain Theatre Conservatory, to offer classes for children and teenagers and pre-professional classes for adults; approximately 250 students annually have benefited from the program, which continues to this day; and

WHEREAS, Mill Mountain Theatre launched three acclaimed stage productions in 2013 and has announced a full schedule of shows for 2014 at its two performance venues; the theatre has renewed its commitment to fostering new works by contemporary playwrights through a collaboration with Hollins University; and

WHEREAS, throughout its history, Mill Mountain Theatre has enjoyed a regional and national reputation for its dedication to artistic quality and the excellence of its educational programs; and

WHEREAS, Mill Mountain Theatre owes much of its success to the dedication and hard work of many employees and volunteers, the professionalism of the actors, and the enthusiastic support of the community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Mill Mountain Theatre on the occasion of its 50th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Mill Mountain Theatre as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and best wishes for the future.

INTRODUCED

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