

2014 SPECIAL SESSION I

ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5198

Commending Community Idea Stations.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, September 18, 2014

Agreed to by the Senate, September 18, 2014

WHEREAS, Community Idea Stations, founded by a group of 89 visionary community leaders led by Thomas C. Boushall, began serving the Richmond community when WCVE Channel 23 signed on the air on September 14, 1964, with a core mission of serving schools in Central Virginia classrooms with educational television programming; and

WHEREAS, Community Idea Stations has grown to include three television stations, including WCVE-TV and WCVW-TV in Richmond and WHTJ-TV in Charlottesville, and three radio stations, including 88.9 WCVE in Richmond, 89.1 WCNV in Heathsville, and 90.1 WMVE in Chase City, providing PBS and NPR national programming, combined with locally produced programming that delivers lifelong learning opportunities for community members of all ages; and

WHEREAS, Community Idea Stations partners with Communities in Schools, Smart Beginnings, and more than 80 other community partners in its Ready to Learn initiative to identify lower income communities where PBS resources can be distributed to parents to help prepare their children for success in school; and

WHEREAS, Community Idea Stations actively promotes the arts through its national and local programming and expands the impact of local arts organizations throughout the community through live radio broadcasts of the Richmond Folk Festival and recorded concerts of the Richmond Symphony and television broadcast performances by the American Youth Harp Ensemble, the Latin Ballet of Virginia, the Elegba Folklore Society, the Richmond Ballet, and many others through its series The Community Idea Stations Presents; and

WHEREAS, each year, Community Idea Stations extends the historical legacy of Central Virginia to thousands of public television viewers through numerous award-winning documentaries such as *Locked Out: The Fall of Massive Resistance* (produced in partnership with the University of Virginia's Center for Politics) and *Liberty or Death* (produced in partnership with St. John's Church Foundation); and

WHEREAS, Community Idea Stations connects the citizens of the Commonwealth to state government by operating the only broadcast studio in the General Assembly Building, providing a local platform for legislators and community leaders to appear on the national stage, archiving the proceedings of the Virginia House of Delegates and the Senate of Virginia, and airing live gubernatorial and senatorial debates on television and radio stations throughout Virginia; and

WHEREAS, through its Science Matters Initiative, Community Idea Stations works with the Science Matters Leadership Team, led by Eric Rhoades, director and science coordinator for the Office of Science and Health Education at the Virginia Department of Education, and more than 70 community partners, such as the Science Museum of Virginia and Virginia Commonwealth University, to use the power of its media to inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers, and innovators; and

WHEREAS, Community Idea Stations engages 300,000 viewers and listeners each week with programming that prepares children for school, enhances and promotes the arts, remembers the past, informs citizens, and inspires curiosity about world affairs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Community Idea Stations for its service to the community on the occasion of its 50th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Community Idea Stations as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and admiration for the organization's commitment to using the power of media to educate, entertain, and inspire listeners and viewers throughout the Commonwealth.

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