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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 785

Offered February 6, 2015

Commending the National Association of Women Business Owners Richmond Chapter.

Patrons—Carr, Anderson, BaCote, Bulova, DeSteph, Filler-Corn, Herring, Hester, James, Kory, Lopez, McClellan, McQuinn, Murphy, Plum, Preston, Robinson, Sickles, Spruill, Surovell, Torian, Ward and Watts; Senators: Favola, McEachin, Stosch and Watkins

WHEREAS, the National Association of Women Business Owners celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) is the only member organization representing women entrepreneurs in all sectors, sizes, and stages of their business development to remove obstacles and create opportunities for women entrepreneurs; and

WHEREAS, formed in 1975, NAWBO has been at the forefront of mentoring services for women business owners and was involved in the passage of historic legislation in 1989 that abolished requirements for a female entrepreneur to obtain a male cosignatory for her business loan; and

WHEREAS, NAWBO has served as a critical resource through public policy summits, which help government officials better understand and meet the needs of all women business owners through the data provided by the organization's 7,000 business owners in 70 chapters; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond Chapter of NAWBO was formed in 1982 to extend the organization's strong voice and vision to a dynamic group of women business owners and corporate partners in Central Virginia, at a time when women owned only 10 percent of businesses in the United States; and

WHEREAS, today, women-owned businesses account for 40 percent of privately held firms in the United States; the Guardian Life Small Business Research Institute projects that women-owned business will account for one-third of new jobs created by 2018; and

WHEREAS, the NAWBO Richmond Chapter's primary mission is to provide a voice at the table for women on public policy issues, including regulatory issues, tax issues, and all issues that affect business across the board; and

WHEREAS, the NAWBO Richmond Chapter promotes leadership in the civic and business community and works to create new educational, mentorship, and business opportunities for women; the organization values and seeks diverse, inclusive membership among women business owners; and

WHEREAS, the NAWBO Richmond Chapter educates the public about women-owned business by stressing the growing influence of successful women in business, with one in every five million-dollar companies being woman owned; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the National Association of Women Business Owners Richmond Chapter for its commitment to women-owned business growth in Central Virginia and its valuable service to the Commonwealth by helping to create a level playing field for women business owners; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the National Association of Women Business Owners Richmond Chapter as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for its leadership and work to create new opportunities in the Commonwealth and for the outstanding entrepreneurship record of women in business.

INTRODUCED

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