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SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 41

Offered February 9, 2016

Commending the Heaven Bound Mass Choir.

Patron—McDougle

WHEREAS, in 2016, the Heaven Bound Mass Choir celebrates its 35th anniversary of providing uplifting musical performances of praise and thanksgiving in churches and concert venues in the Commonwealth and the mid-Atlantic region; and

WHEREAS, the Heaven Bound Mass Choir was formed in March 1981 by the late Franklin L. Terrell; singers from eight churches in Caroline County and the surrounding area were the founding members of the vocal ensemble; and

WHEREAS, in its early years, the Heaven Bound Mass Choir consisted of 88 joyful voices; members rehearsed regularly and performed in local houses of worship, lifting their voices in praise and thanksgiving; and

WHEREAS, the songs and music of the Heaven Bound Mass Choir became well-known in the community and the group's concerts drew appreciative and enthusiastic audiences; as its reputation spread, the choir was asked to perform at venues far from where their first performances were held; and

WHEREAS, over the years, audiences around the Commonwealth and in Maryland, the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New York have enjoyed and shared in the beautiful and holy music performed by the Heaven Bound Mass Choir; and

WHEREAS, the Heaven Bound Mass Choir performed in New York as part of the award-winning play, *Mama, I Want to Sing*, a musical based on the life and times of African American singer Doris Troy; and

WHEREAS, the Heaven Bound Mass Choir has sponsored scholarships and awards and has held outreach programs that benefit people, churches, and other organizations in the community; the group often donates the proceeds from their performances back to the church hosting the concert; and

WHEREAS, for more than three decades, the Heaven Bound Mass Choir has offered songs of holiness, thanksgiving, and praise and its music has provided sustenance and comfort to an appreciative and ever-growing audience in the Commonwealth and beyond; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate of Virginia, That the Heaven Bound Mass Choir hereby be commended on the occasion of its 35th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the director of the Heaven Bound Mass Choir as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's congratulations and admiration for its many talents and for providing joyous song and music to the people of the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED

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