

2016 SESSION

ENROLLED

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 85

Commending the Woman's Club of Norfolk.

Agreed to by the Senate, March 10, 2016

WHEREAS, the Woman's Club of Norfolk, an admired civic and charitable organization that has made many positive contributions to the community, celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Woman's Club of Norfolk was founded in 1916 by a group of active and community-minded women who enjoyed working with friends; 16 women attended the inaugural meeting, which was held at the home of Mrs. Dovey Collins; and

WHEREAS, members of the Woman's Club of Norfolk included housewives, social workers, teachers, mothers, grandmothers, and college professors, all of whom appreciated the opportunity to gather for fellowship and social activities; and

WHEREAS, by 1930, membership in the Woman's Club of Norfolk had increased from 16 to 25 people; the club began to address the social needs of disadvantaged groups in the community and the political, educational, and civic needs of the black population in the Norfolk area and across the country; and

WHEREAS, the Woman's Club of Norfolk has supported many worthwhile civic and charitable endeavors, including the establishment of the Eastern Virginia Medical School, Blyden Branch Library, and the William A. Hunton YMCA, which is the oldest YMCA in the nation; and

WHEREAS, other organizations that have benefited from the work of the Woman's Club of Norfolk are Norfolk State University, the United Negro College Fund, Inc., the Urban League of Hampton Roads, Inc., and Jacox Junior High School, which is now Jacox Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, today, the Woman's Club of Norfolk has 30 members who gather monthly to support current civic needs; throughout its storied history, the club has provided a forum where women could join together in a social setting to help less fortunate members of society and to support the black community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate of Virginia, That the Woman's Club of Norfolk hereby be commended on the occasion of its 100th anniversary in 2016; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Mercedes Coveney, president of the Woman's Club of Norfolk, as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's respect and admiration for the club's many years of service to disadvantaged people and to the black community in Norfolk and across the nation.

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