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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 243

Offered March 5, 2018

Commending the Mount Vernon Voice.

Patrons—Surovell, Barker and Ebbin; Delegates: Krizek, Rasoul, Sickles and Tran

WHEREAS, the *Mount Vernon Voice*, a respected local newspaper covering current events in the Mount Vernon and Lee communities, ended its circulation in February 2018 after over 16 years of service to the residents of southeastern Fairfax County; and

WHEREAS, the *Mount Vernon Voice* was launched in 2002 to fill the need for a hometown paper in Mount Vernon and the surrounding area; Marlene Miller and Steve Hunt, two Mount Vernon locals, served as the paper's co-publishers and its primary contributors; and

WHEREAS, a true local newspaper, the *Mount Vernon Voice* was a trusted news source known for its in-depth coverage of events in the Mount Vernon area; the publication also frequently gave back to the community through sponsorship of local events and participation in fundraisers for charitable causes; and

WHEREAS, in addition to reporting on government, crime, and cultural events, the *Mount Vernon Voice* routinely published editorials that pushed for positive change in the community; among other accomplishments, the publication helped fight for Inova Mount Vernon Hospital to remain a full service hospital; and

WHEREAS, the *Mount Vernon Voice* was a reliable presence at local events, banquets, fundraisers, announcements, graduations, and important moments and published thousands of editorials by local elected officials, citizens, and others, keeping residents up-to-date with important events in the community; and

WHEREAS, the *Mount Vernon Voice* won several awards from the Virginia Press Association, including first place prizes in investigative reporting, editorial writing, and headline writing; and

WHEREAS, the *Mount Vernon Voice* also received awards from the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce and the American Red Cross and was a nominee for Alexandria Small Business of the Year; and

WHEREAS, throughout its history, the *Mount Vernon Voice* maintained the highest standards of journalistic accuracy and integrity while diligently chronicling the people, places, and events that shaped its local community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the *Mount Vernon Voice* for over 16 years of providing outstanding community journalism to the residents of Mount Vernon and Lee; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Marlene Miller and Steve Hunt, publishers of the *Mount Vernon Voice*, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the newspaper's exemplary service to the community.

INTRODUCED

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