

## 2019 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1055

Offered February 18, 2019

*Commending the Bristol Chamber of Commerce.*

Patrons—O'Quinn and Pillion; Senator: Carrico

WHEREAS, the Bristol Chamber of Commerce, the second oldest accredited chamber in Virginia, celebrates its 110th anniversary in 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Bristol Chamber of Commerce, then known as the Board of Trade, held its first meeting on May 7, 1909, and adopted its slogan "Greater Bristol"; at the time, there were approximately 40 members who each paid annual dues of \$6; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trade changed its name to the Bristol Chamber of Commerce in 1918; a relic from this period is the "Push, It's Bristol" sign, which originated from the organization in 1910 and remains a historic landmark and a major part of Bristol's heritage and history; and

WHEREAS, in 1965, the Bristol Chamber of Commerce became the first chamber in Tennessee or the Commonwealth to be accredited by the United States Chamber of Commerce; today, the Bristol Chamber of Commerce is one of only four chambers in the Commonwealth with a five-star accreditation and, of the approximately 7,000 chambers in the nation, is among the top 1.5% of chambers based on performance and program evaluations during the reaccreditation process; and

WHEREAS, over the past half century, the Bristol Chamber of Commerce has developed several programs to better the community of Bristol, including LEAD Bristol, an adult leadership program; Keep Bristol Beautiful, a litter reduction program; and Bristol Youth Leadership, a leadership program for high school sophomores and juniors; in over a century of operation, the organization has been the foundation of Bristol's business community and has worked to foster a thriving economy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Bristol Chamber of Commerce on the occasion of its 110th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Bristol Chamber of Commerce as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for its contributions to the communities of Bristol and the Commonwealth.

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