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SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 48

Offered February 28, 2020

Commending the Hampton University Choir.

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Patron—Locke

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WHEREAS, for 150 years, the Hampton University Choir has supported Hampton University and provided opportunities for students to share the joys of music; and

WHEREAS, originally known as the Hampton Singers, the Hampton University Choir was established by Samuel Chapman Armstrong in 1870 and consisted of 17 students, four of whom were former slaves; and

WHEREAS, in 1872, the Hampton Singers worked with Thomas P. Fenner, a conservatory-trained vocalist, to prepare for a tour of several Northern states; and

WHEREAS, the Hampton Singers raised more than $300,000 through their performances and were credited with raising much of the early endowment for Hampton University, then known as Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute; and

WHEREAS, in the mid-1870s, the Hampton Singers also "sung up" a women's dormitory on campus, Virginia-Cleveland Hall, by performing to raise money for its construction; and

WHEREAS, the Hampton University Choir has performed throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe; including in Carnegie Hall, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, and St. Patrick's Cathedral; as well as at the inauguration of President Bill Clinton; and

WHEREAS, the Hampton University Choir will commemorate the organization's 150th anniversary with a special event on April 17, 2020; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate of Virginia, That the Hampton University Choir hereby be commended on the occasion of its 150th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Hampton University Choir as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's admiration for its rich history and many contributions to the Hampton University community.

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