

## 2021 SPECIAL SESSION II

INTRODUCED

21300320D

### HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 831

Offered August 4, 2021

*Commending Diane Akers.*

Patron—Hurst

WHEREAS, Diane Akers retired as president of the Blacksburg Partnership on June 30, 2021, after nearly 20 years of outstanding leadership and dedicated advocacy for the residents and businesses of Blacksburg and the surrounding region; and

WHEREAS, Diane Akers helped launch the Blacksburg Partnership as its first director in 2002 and has helped the organization grow into a driving force in local quality of life initiatives and economic development projects; and

WHEREAS, the Blacksburg Partnership was established by the Town of Blacksburg, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), and members of the local community; under Diane Akers' leadership, the Blacksburg Partnership grew from 22 member organizations to more than 70; and

WHEREAS, Diane Akers built the Blacksburg Partnership into a forum for communication between local government, Virginia Tech, local retailers, corporations, and nonprofit organizations; among many achievements, she developed the Step Into Blacksburg marketing program, enhanced cultural life and highlighted regional artists through the Gobble de Art event, and led the NRV Passenger Rail Initiative to bring rail service back to the New River Valley; and

WHEREAS, Diane Akers earned the admiration of her colleagues and members of the Blacksburg Partnership for her exceptional communications and organizational skills and her ability to build consensus between people of competing viewpoints; and

WHEREAS, Diane Akers left the Blacksburg Partnership with a solid foundation for success in the future, and after her well-earned retirement, she plans to seek new opportunities to serve the community through work with nonprofit organizations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That Diane Akers hereby be commended on the occasion of her retirement as president of the Blacksburg Partnership; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Diane Akers as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for her professional achievements on behalf of the residents and businesses of Blacksburg and her outstanding contributions to the Commonwealth.

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