

2021 SPECIAL SESSION II

INTRODUCED

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SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 712

Offered August 3, 2021

Commending Ourisman Automotive Group.

Patrons—Surovell, Barker, Bell, Boysko, DeSteph, Ebbin, Favola, Howell, Marsden and Saslaw

WHEREAS, for 100 years, Ourisman Automotive Group has provided exceptional customer service to residents of Northern Virginia while striving to enhance community life throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, at the age of 18, Ben Ourisman established Ourisman Automotive Group in 1921 when he opened Ourisman Chevrolet at the intersection of 6th Street and H Street in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, while Ourisman Automotive Group closed briefly during World War II, the dealership promptly reopened after the war and became one of the most successful car dealerships in the United States by the late 1940s; and

WHEREAS, Ourisman Automotive Group opened its second location in Anacostia, Mandell Chevrolet, named for Ben Ourisman's son, Mandell, who continued to steward the business after his father's death; and

WHEREAS, Mandell Ourisman's sons and stepsons continued to expand the family business, with Ourisman Automotive Group subsequently opening many new locations throughout Fairfax County, including several along Richmond Highway; and

WHEREAS, guided by longtime executive and current chief financial officer and partner, Michael Bennett, Ourisman Automotive Group has supported other local businesses and advocated for the revitalization of the Richmond Highway corridor; and

WHEREAS, Michael Bennett has also acted as an ambassador for Ourisman Automotive Group while serving the community as a member of Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services, the Mount Vernon Lee Education Partnership, the Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce, and youth athletics organizations; and

WHEREAS, over the course of its long history, Ourisman Automotive Group has created thousands of jobs throughout the region and helped generations of families and local residents find the perfect automobile; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate of Virginia, That Ourisman Automotive Group hereby be commended on the occasion of its 100th anniversary of operation; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Ourisman Automotive Group as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's admiration for the business's contributions to the community.

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