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## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 16

Offered February 15, 2008

*Commending Roger Scruton.*

Patrons—Ware, R.L., Janis and Saxman

WHEREAS, Roger Scruton, one of the greatest of all liberty-loving Britons in our time, has come to Virginia to breathe once again the atmosphere of liberty that is being snuffed out in his own country, and to practice here the customs of which Britons, through the mischief of overzealous government, are being shorn; and

WHEREAS, Virginia in 2007 commemorated at Jamestown the 400th anniversary of the first permanent settlement in the Western Hemisphere of the English-speaking peoples; and

WHEREAS, it has been the peculiar calling of Virginians to at once inherit, propound, elaborate, and to defend—even with arms against the very England from whence Virginia descends—the liberties of Magna Charta; and

WHEREAS, England and the United Kingdom of which she is the seat have in the present era succumbed to the clutches of an ideology of Political Correctness that quenches even the spirit let alone the expression of liberty; and

WHEREAS, liberty-loving Britons are in record numbers emigrating from Britain to escape the heavy hand of bureaucratic government; and

WHEREAS, Roger Scruton is widely recognized as one of the wisest scholars and most courageous commentators in the world today; and

WHEREAS, it has been written of Roger Scruton that, "There are few more valuable thinkers in Britain—or, indeed, the world—today. In comparison with Mr. Scruton, most of his critics are intellectual pygmies. Both Left and Right should be grateful to have such a man to sharpen and define the issues. Philosophers should be grateful that Mr. Scruton has placed their subject at the very center of current affairs. [Yet] perhaps Mr. Scruton's greatest contribution is his living demonstration of the truth that without philosophy we are nothing"; and

WHEREAS, Roger Scruton was educated at Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe, and in Jesus College, Cambridge, from which he received the Bachelor of Arts degree, with a Double First, in Moral Sciences, as well as the Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees, and he went on to win the Struben and Profumo prizes in readying for the Bar, to which he was called, by the Inns of Court; and

WHEREAS, Roger Scruton is the author of more than 30 books, each of which summons individuals and entire societies to rediscover and to defend the achievements of High Western Culture; and

WHEREAS, Roger Scruton has held distinguished academic posts in Peterhouse, Cambridge; the Department of Philosophy in Birkbeck College, London; and Boston University; and

WHEREAS, as founding editor of *The Salisbury Review*, and as a contributor to numerous prestigious journals on both sides of the Atlantic, Roger Scruton has summoned individuals, societies, and governments to rediscover and thereby to conserve the customs, the landscapes, and the principles that for centuries made Western Culture both good and great; and

WHEREAS, Roger Scruton, during the height of the Western defense of liberty against the depravations of Soviet Communism, bravely supported dissidents of Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Hungary, subsequently being honored with the First June Prize of the City of Plzen and the Medal for Merit (First Class) of The Czech Republic; and

WHEREAS, Roger Scruton now makes one of his two homes in the lower region of the beautiful Shenandoah Valley of Virginia within the shadows of the majestic Blue Ridge Mountains, there practicing as well as promulgating the virtues of country and conservative life and livelihood; and

WHEREAS, Roger Scruton is now Research Professor at The Institute for the Psychological Sciences in Arlington, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, all Virginians would be made the wiser by harkening to the wisdom and practices extolled by Roger Scruton, who is now himself in loyalty as well as sympathy, a Virginian; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the members of the body warmly welcome Roger Scruton to the Commonwealth and hereby recognize his claim to the sublime sobriquet of "Virginian"; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Roger Scruton in appreciation of his sterling life and brave labors and his embrace of Virginian life, liberties, and traditions.

INTRODUCED

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