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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 86

Offered January 13, 2010

Prefiled January 13, 2010

Commending the Virginia Ballet Company and School on the occasion of its 60th anniversary.

Patron—Petersen

WHEREAS, the Virginia Ballet Company and School, located in Fairfax, celebrates its 60th anniversary of providing quality ballet instruction and outstanding performances in 2010; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1950 by artistic directors Oleg Tupine and Tatiana Rousseau, the Virginia Ballet Company and School first met in a building near Annandale before moving to a larger facility in Springfield, where it operated for the next 30 years; and

WHEREAS, in 1965, the Virginia Ballet Company and School was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and in 2000, the Virginia Ballet Company and School moved to its present-day state-of-the-art facility in Fairfax, which has three large studios for classrooms, rehearsal space, and room for future growth; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Ballet Company and School focuses on the Russian tradition of ballet that originated with the Imperial Ballet School of St. Petersburg, founded by Peter the Great in 1738; today, the Russian method is best known as the Vaganova method, named after one of Russia's great 20th century ballerinas and teachers; and

WHEREAS, the Vaganova training produces technically powerful dancers with amazing strength, flexibility, and stamina; some of the most famous dancers in history have been trained in the Vaganova method, including Mikhail Baryshnikov; and

WHEREAS, talented and visionary founding directors Oleg Tupine and Tatiana Rousseau both received their early training from Paris schools whose instructors trained at the Imperial Ballet School with Vaganova; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Ballet Company and School is known for its traditional productions of classical ballet and the opportunity it offers students to dance major roles in full-length classical ballets; today the school provides training to over 250 students and one of its signature productions is the holiday performance of *The Nutcracker*; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Ballet Company and School has contributed significantly to the cultural and artistic fabric of the Northern Virginia region over the past 60 years; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Virginia Ballet Company and School on the occasion of its 60th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Virginia Ballet Company and School as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and best wishes for continued success in the future.

INTRODUCED

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