

11104462D

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 411

Offered January 28, 2011

Commending the Richmond Boys Choir.

Patron—McEachin

WHEREAS, the Richmond Boys Choir, a group of talented young men ages seven to seventeen, celebrates 15 years of musical excellence in 2011; and

WHEREAS, formed in 1996 as a collaborative project between Theatre IV and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Richmond, the Richmond Boys Choir, dubbed "Richmond's Ambassadors of Song," has traveled across the United States performing for various audiences; and

WHEREAS, drawing from the City of Richmond and Counties of Chesterfield, Hanover, and Henrico, the Richmond Boys Choir encourages its members to develop their personal talents and excel academically; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond Boys Choir gives numerous concerts throughout the year in the local community; in fiscal year 2010, more than 25,000 people attended Richmond Boys Choir concerts while over 100,000 viewed the concerts by television; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond Boys Choir has had the privilege of performing at many signature events in the Commonwealth, including the Governor's Inaugural Prayer Breakfast, the official Christmas tree lighting, the opening ceremony at Jamestown for America's 400th Anniversary, and Virginia's Royal Welcome Concert; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond Boys Choir has also performed before many distinguished personages over the years, including Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and former First Lady Laura Bush; and

WHEREAS, a sought-after musical group, the Richmond Boys Choir has opened for Wynton Marsalis, Lily Tomlin, former Supremes member Mary Wilson, and Al Jarreau; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond Boys Choir received national attention when it performed on NBC's *Today Show* and international attention when it was one of two groups from the United States chosen to perform in the Panama City, Panama, at the IV International Choral Festival, "the Caribbean & Central America Sing" in 2007; and

WHEREAS, the choir is the first and only, to date, Virginia recipient of the prestigious Coming Up Taller Award, granted by the President's Committee on Arts and Humanities to noteworthy afterschool youth programs and was then selected from 15 other organizations to perform at the White House award ceremony; and

WHEREAS, members of the Richmond Boys Choir have unselfishly given of their time to help local charitable organizations, including the Central Virginia Food Bank and Noah's Children, while also participating in the Adopt-A-Street program; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, the Richmond Boys Choir has influenced the lives of more than 1,300 young men and provided more than \$50,000 in continuing education scholarships while representing the Greater Richmond area with great distinction; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly commend the Richmond Boys Choir on the occasion of its 15th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Richmond Boys Choir as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and admiration for the Choir's many accomplishments.

INTRODUCED

SJ411