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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 430

Offered February 22, 2012

3 Commending *The Links, Incorporated Central Virginia Cluster.*

4 Patrons—Dance, BaCote, and Loupassi; Senators: Locke and Lucas

5 WHEREAS, The Links, Incorporated, an international, not-for-profit corporation established in 1946
6 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, by homemakers Sarah Strickland Scott and Margaret Roselle Hawkins,
7 became a national organization in June 1949; and8 WHEREAS, The Links, Incorporated consists of 12,000 professional women in 274 chapters located
9 in 42 states, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, and is one of the
10 nation's oldest and largest volunteer service organizations of African American women who are
11 influential decision makers and opinion leaders committed to enriching and sustaining the culture and
12 ensuring the economic survival of African Americans and other persons of African ancestry; and13 WHEREAS, with a focus on local communities, members of The Links, Incorporated chapters work
14 as business and civic leaders, mentors, role models, community activists, and volunteers who contribute
15 more than 500,000 hours of community service each year; and16 WHEREAS, The Links, Incorporated is organized nationally by geographical regions, and the Central
17 Virginia Cluster consists of five chapters—Petersburg, Richmond, Southside Virginia, James River
18 Valley, and Commonwealth—which focus on programs designed to address local, national, and
19 international education, health care, and other human services issues; and20 WHEREAS, the Richmond Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, chartered in 1952 and celebrating 60
21 years of dedicated service to the Richmond community in March 2012, contributes financially to various
22 local charities and causes, including the Central Virginia Food Bank; the Richmond Fisher House, which
23 supports families of veterans receiving medical treatment at the Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical
24 Center; and an endowed chair and a scholarship program at Virginia Union University; and25 WHEREAS, the Petersburg Chapter, the seventh oldest chapter of The Links, Incorporated, was
26 organized in 1948; it participates in "Paint It Pink Petersburg," a program devoted to increasing
27 diagnostic breast screenings for needy local women, and "Total U," a multifaceted and multi-dimensional
28 mentoring program for female students at Vernon Johns Junior High School that promotes academic
29 achievement, provides exposure to culturally enriched activities and positive role models, and encourages
30 healthy self-images and positive life choices; and31 WHEREAS, the Southside Virginia Chapter provides "Linking Motivators to Achievers," a mentoring
32 program for the children and parents of the Single Parent Program at Saint Paul's College in
33 Lawrenceville; it also contributes annually to the United Negro College Fund and works with the
34 Southside Virginia ArtBank to provide cultural programs in Southside Virginia; and35 WHEREAS, the James River Valley Chapter, chartered in 1983, serves the Richmond community
36 through comprehensive outreach programs at local elementary public schools that focus on financial
37 literacy, childhood obesity, healthy lifestyles, dining etiquette, academic tutoring, and an appreciation of
38 the arts; it also sponsors the Saks Fifth Avenue "Fashion Experience," an annual fundraiser to support
39 the chapter's community outreach initiatives, which include contributions to the Edwina Hall Endowed
40 Scholarship and sponsorship of the Professional Clothing Closet at Virginia Union University, the
41 Central Virginia Food Bank, local breast cancer organizations, the Black History Museum and Cultural
42 Center of Virginia, Linwood Holton Elementary School, and Habitat for Humanity International to build
43 a core house in Haiti; and44 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth Chapter was chartered in Richmond on June 6, 1998, as the 270th
45 chapter of The Links, Incorporated and the 75th chapter in the Eastern Region, and chapter members
46 have provided more than two million service hours to the community; the chapter provides significant
47 contributions to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in Virginia, acknowledges
48 community leaders and an HBCU during the annual Green and White Luncheon, maintains partnerships
49 with the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Baptist General Convention, LifeNet Health,
50 and many other organizations, and sponsors the Young Achievers Program, a national award-winning
51 program offered in the Richmond public schools to address the worsening plight of young African
52 American males by providing program participants support and opportunities to develop the skills
53 essential to complete high school and college and make positive life choices; and54 WHEREAS, The Links, Incorporated's unique mission of combining friendship and purposeful
55 service to make history, provide hope, and enrich the community through education and the arts has had
56 positive results in the community, provided support and assistance to assuage educational disadvantage
57 and cultural deprivation, and created opportunities that have allowed members of the organization to use
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59 their talents to help fulfill the hopes and dreams of others; now, therefore, be it
60 RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby
61 commend The Links, Incorporated Central Virginia Cluster; and, be it
62 RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare copies of this resolution
63 for presentation to Margot James Copeland, National President; Dianne Hardison, Area Director of the
64 Old Dominion (VA) Chapter; and Kelly Harris-Braxton, president of the Richmond Chapter of The
65 Links, Incorporated, requesting that they each further disseminate copies of this resolution to their
66 respective constituents in order that they may be apprised of the General Assembly's appreciation of the
67 organization's service to the Commonwealth.