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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 328

Offered February 4, 2015

Commending the Rock Ridge High School marching band.

Patrons—Wexton, Favola and Vogel; Delegates: Greason and Minchew

WHEREAS, the Rock Ridge High School marching band from Ashburn won the USBands Class 1A competition for 2014, the first year of existence for the school—and the band; and

WHEREAS, the Rock Ridge High School band's victory came just a few weeks after the new building opened in September 2014; the school currently has only 9th- through 11th-grade students in its inaugural year and serves the growing population of Loudoun County; and

WHEREAS, band director Justin Ratcliff was one of the first people to be hired at Rock Ridge High School and he quickly got to work; in the summer before the school officially opened, the band already had formed and started practice; and

WHEREAS, most members of the Rock Ridge High School marching band are freshmen or sophomores who had never been in a marching band; despite their lack of experience, the band was eager to enter local and regional competitions; and

WHEREAS, the Rock Ridge High School band musicians took part in contests at Woodbridge High School, Hermitage High School, Millbrook High School, and at the Loudoun Valley band competition, winning first place in three of the competitions and second place in the fourth contest; and

WHEREAS, at the 2014 Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors Association marching assessment, the Rock Ridge High School marching band received a unanimous Superior rating, meaning that all seven judges ranked the group Superior; it is one of only five first-year bands to win such an honor; and

WHEREAS, at the USBands' state competition, the Rock Ridge High School band won the prestigious Cadets Award, outperforming 13 other school bands; the award recognizes excellence in creativity, performance, and overall effect; and

WHEREAS, strong support from parents, friends, fellow students, and the faculty and staff of Rock Ridge High School helped spur the musicians through many hours of rehearsal and performances during the 2014 marching band season; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Rock Ridge High School marching band for winning the 2014 USBands Class 1A competition; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Justin Ratcliff, director of the Rock Ridge High School marching band, as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and admiration for the new band's hard work, dedication, and success.

INTRODUCED

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