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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 266

Offered February 8, 2016

*Commending Mongrel.*

Patrons—Carr; Senator: McEachin

WHEREAS, in 2016, Mongrel, a popular gift shop in Richmond's Carytown shopping district, celebrates its 25th anniversary of offering distinctive and eclectic merchandise that greatly appeals to many customers; and

WHEREAS, Mongrel was named Cards Cards Cards when it opened in 1991, and quickly became known for its inventive offerings; after three years, the card and gift shop had outgrown its original storefront near the Byrd Theatre; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, co-owners Mark Burkett and Stan McCulloch expanded the store by purchasing the adjacent building; they renamed the company Mongrel to better reflect the variety of goods for sale and the mix of customers; and

WHEREAS, Mongrel seeks to stock goods that are fresh and inspired by offering unusual and utilitarian items that serve everyday needs; additionally, the store sells mugs, coasters, and T-shirts featuring neighborhoods, streets, and other points of interest in Richmond; and

WHEREAS, Mongrel continues to sell greeting cards; the company specializes in handmade letterpress cards and carries more than 3,000 images of cards year-round; gift items for sale at Mongrel include presents for men, home accessories, pet items, and kitchenware; and

WHEREAS, business is strong for Mark Burkett and Stan McCulloch; Mongrel's sales have increased 15 percent annually since 2009, and they and two business partners ventured further afield when, in 2006, they opened Chocolatepapers in Roanoke, which sells similar products, plus truffles and other chocolates; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Mongrel, a popular gift shop and greeting card store in Richmond's Carytown retail district, on the occasion of its 25th anniversary in 2016; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Mark Burkett and Stan McCulloch, co-owners of Mongrel, as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and admiration for its many years of being an outstanding small business in the Commonwealth.

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