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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 273**

Offered February 9, 2016

*Commending the Virginia Home for Boys and Girls.*

Patrons—Massie, Bagby, Carr, Loupassi, O'Bannon, Peace, Rasoul and Ware

WHEREAS, for 170 years, the Virginia Home for Boys and Girls has provided Richmond-area youth a safe, supportive environment for growth, learning, and healing; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1846 as the Richmond Male Orphan Society, the original mission of the Virginia Home for Boys and Girls was to provide a home for abused, abandoned, and neglected boys, many of whom were living on the streets; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Home for Boys and Girls evolved to meet community needs, serving boys in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems for many years; the organization moved to Henrico County in the 1950s and began providing educational services through the John G. Wood School in 1970; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, the Virginia Home for Boys and Girls expanded its services to young girls and now provides a full spectrum of evidence-based, child-centered, and family-focused services to help ensure that all children grow up in loving families and supportive communities; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Virginia Home for Boys and Girls to strengthen families spans the child welfare, juvenile justice, mental health, and education systems; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Virginia Home for Boys and Girls for its work to help young boys and girls in the Richmond area thrive and become happy, productive members of the community; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Virginia Home for Boys and Girls as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for its commitment to serving the youth of the Richmond area and the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED

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