

16104867D

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 400

Offered March 1, 2016

Commending Bluemont Concert Series.

Patrons—Webert and Minchew

WHEREAS, in 2016, Bluemont Concert Series proudly celebrates 40 years of providing high-quality concerts and cultural events in localities throughout northwestern and Central Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the organization gets its name from Bluemont in Loudoun County, where the organization's concerts and other cultural events first became a mainstay of the local culture; today, Bluemont's programs support the arts and cultural life of towns and villages in a large swath of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Bluemont is to present a variety of high-quality cultural events that are accessible, affordable, and family-oriented; the organization works to bring to life the cultural spirit of the communities it serves through shared experiences in the arts; and

WHEREAS, since 1976, Bluemont has presented more than 9,300 events; the nonprofit regional arts organization helps foster a sense of community by bringing arts and culture to often underserved areas of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, in addition to its highly regarded concert series, Bluemont presents programs in schools, health care facilities, assisted living centers, and nursing homes; to date, audiences totaling more than three million people have enjoyed the organization's numerous cultural offerings; and

WHEREAS, Bluemont's family-friendly programs feature a variety of genres and styles, including music, song, poetry, and storytelling; in recent years, the concert series has hosted bluegrass, Hawaiian swing, folk, jazz, rock and roll, classical flute, and Caribbean steel bands; and

WHEREAS, in Culpeper and Fauquier Counties, Bluemont has presented more than 1,500 educational programs, summer concerts, community events, and benefit performances—often in partnership with local community groups; the popular concerts and arts events help build the communities' cultural spirit; and

WHEREAS, Bluemont has also brought art programs to schools, and its Artists-in-Education initiative, which started in 1979, blends the arts, humanities, and science in a creative and motivational approach to learning; and

WHEREAS, Bluemont's popular Outreach Program, which started in 1981, offers quality entertainment at no charge to appreciative audiences at area health care facilities; to date, more than 900 programs have been performed at 65 nursing home and assisted living facilities; and

WHEREAS, Bluemont has been the recipient of numerous accolades and awards, including a Distinguished Service Award from the Virginia Alliance for Arts Education; the Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of Commerce also honored it with a Significant Success "REEGIE" Award for its success in fostering regional cooperation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Bluemont Concert Series on the occasion of its 40th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Lily R. Dunning, executive director of Bluemont Concert Series, as an expression of the General Assembly's respect and admiration for its tireless work to bring high-quality concerts and cultural performances to many communities in the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED

HJ400