## **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 963**

Commending Aglow International.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 17, 2017 Agreed to by the Senate, February 22, 2017

WHEREAS, Aglow International has helped people throughout the world build close, personal relationships with the Lord through 50 years of fellowship, outreach, and leadership; and

WHEREAS, founded by four women seeking to establish an interdenominational Christian fellowship organization, Aglow International held its first general meeting in 1967 in Seattle, Washington, where nearly 100 attendees heard the organization's message and began to form similar groups throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, by 1972, more than 60 local groups held meetings around the United States, and within another two years, Aglow International had expanded to Canada, New Zealand, and the Netherlands; the group first welcomed men in 2007; and

WHEREAS, today, Aglow International inspires men and women of many different cultures and backgrounds, with 4,600 groups meeting worldwide and more than 20,000 Aglow International ministers serving an estimated 17 million people in nearly 200 nations; and

WHEREAS, Aglow International meetings range from small prayer groups or Bible studies to larger groups of up to 700 members, with meetings tailored to meet the needs of different communities; groups conduct outreach at nursing homes, orphanages, schools, and charitable organizations and have formed a wide variety of special ministries; and

WHEREAS, Aglow International Transformation teams have traveled to countries throughout the world to hold medical clinics and build faith communities, as well as help underprivileged women learn a trade to better support themselves and their families; and

WHEREAS, Aglow International has brought hope and faith to incarcerated women and teenagers for more than 40 years through its prison ministries; the group has also established a men's prison ministry in California and has ministered at a women's prison in Ukraine for 13 years; and

WHEREAS, Aglow International holds regional, national, and global conferences to help members share ideas and become better leaders in their communities; the Global Conference draws thousands of members and features a flag parade where leaders from different nations joyously celebrate their faith and culture; and

WHEREAS, Aglow International will commemorate its 50th year of service with special events at the organization's Global Conference beginning on September 28, 2017, in Richmond; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Aglow International on the occasion of its 50th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Jane Hansen Hoyt, president and chief executive officer of Aglow International, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the organization's benevolent mission and service to communities throughout the world.