

2018 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 233

Offered March 5, 2018

Commending Bill Blackburn.

Patrons—Ebbin, Barker and Saslaw; Delegate: Herring

WHEREAS, Bill Blackburn, an active Alexandria community member and restaurateur, was named the 2017 Business Leader of the Year by the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, a native of St. Louis, Missouri, Bill Blackburn graduated from the George Washington University in 2000 with a degree in business administration and quickly became involved in the Alexandria restaurant business; and

WHEREAS, since 2001, Bill Blackburn has been a member of the Del Ray-based Home Grown Restaurant Group, which employs over 100 people; and

WHEREAS, as managing partner with the Home Grown Restaurant Group, Bill Blackburn oversees the restaurants, Pork Barrel BBQ, Holy Cow, the Sushi Bar, and Sweet Fire Donna's; another restaurant, Whiskey Oyster, will soon be opened in Alexandria's Carlyle neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his work with the Home Grown Restaurant Group, Bill Blackburn is a former two-term president of the Del Ray Business Association and currently serves as a board member of the Alexandria Small Business Development Center; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated community member, Bill Blackburn serves on the board of directors for the Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics and has helped organize numerous local events, including the annual Turkey Trot, the Del Ray Halloween Parade, and Art on the Avenue, which draws over 20,000 people to the City of Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, Bill Blackburn's other philanthropic endeavors include the "Holy Cow Burger Fund," which donates 25 cents from every burger sold at Holy Cow restaurant to charity; to date, the fund has contributed almost \$100,000 to over 150 nonprofit organizations that support education, assistance for the homeless, animal welfare, and arts and culture; and

WHEREAS, by following the guiding mantra "do what you say you're going to do," Bill Blackburn has provided valuable service to Alexandria and won the abiding respect of community members and colleagues; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Bill Blackburn for being named the 2017 Business Leader of the Year by the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Bill Blackburn as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for his impressive business accomplishments and ongoing commitment to the Alexandria community.

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