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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 748**

Offered January 24, 2019

*Commending Virginia State University.*

Patrons—Aird, Rush, Adams, D.M., Adams, L.R., Austin, Ayala, Bagby, Bell, John J., Bell, Richard P., Bell, Robert B., Bloxom, Bourne, Brewer, Bulova, Byron, Campbell, J.L., Campbell, R.R., Carr, Carroll Foy, Carter, Collins, Convirs-Fowler, Cox, Davis, Delaney, Edmunds, Fariss, Filler-Corn, Fowler, Freitas, Garrett, Gilbert, Gooditis, Guzman, Hayes, Head, Helsel, Heretick, Hodges, Hope, Hugo, Hurst, Ingram, James, Jones, S.C., Keam, Kilgore, Knight, Kory, Krizek, Landes, LaRock, Leftwich, Levine, Lindsey, Lopez, Marshall, McGuire, McNamara, McQuinn, Miyares, Morefield, Mullin, Murphy, O'Quinn, Orrock, Peace, Pillion, Plum, Pogge, Poindexter, Price, Ransone, Reid, Robinson, Rodman, Roem, Sickles, Simon, Stolle, Sullivan, Thomas, Toscano, Turpin, Tyler, VanValkenburg, Ware, Watts, Webert, Wilt, Wright and Yancey; Senators: Barker, Black, Boysko, Carrico, Chafin, Chase, Cosgrove, Dance, Deeds, DeSteph, Dunnavant, Ebbin, Edwards, Favola, Hanger, Howell, Lewis, Locke, Lucas, Marsden, Mason, McClellan, McDougale, McPike, Newman, Norment, Obenshain, Peake, Petersen, Reeves, Ruff, Saslaw, Spruill, Stanley, Stuart, Sturtevant, Suetterlein, Surovell, Vogel and Wagner

WHEREAS, Virginia State University, a historically black public land-grant university in Ettrick, was named as the 2018 HBCU of the Year for its high achievement in academics, athletics, community outreach, leadership, and media; and

WHEREAS, Virginia State University received the prestigious award, presented by *HBCU Digest*, at the HBCU Awards ceremony on June 22, 2018, in Baltimore; the institution was selected by a distinguished panel of previous award winners, members of the media, and presidents and chancellors of other historically black colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, Virginia State University earned accolades for its commitment to funding the innovative Agricultural Research Station, its success in football and basketball, and its increased enrollment and retention, especially among first-generation college students; and

WHEREAS, Virginia State University was a finalist in seven categories at the 2018 HBCU Awards, with Briana Bundick-Kelly winning Female Student of the Year and the Board of Visitors claiming the top honor in the Best Board of Trustees category; and

WHEREAS, Virginia State University's hardworking student body, engaged alumni, and dedicated faculty, administrators, and staff have helped make the institution a model of success for other historically black colleges and universities throughout the Commonwealth and the nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Virginia State University on its selection as the 2018 HBCU of the Year; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Dr. Makola M. Abdullah, president of Virginia State University, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the institution's commitment to excellence in academia and leadership in the community.

INTRODUCED

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