HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 390

Commending Temple Beth-El.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 22, 2019

WHEREAS, Temple Beth-El, a Jewish synagogue in Richmond and home to a vibrant and thriving congregation, celebrates its 70th anniversary of worship in its building on Grove Avenue in 2019; and

WHEREAS, plans for Temple Beth-El were first conceived in 1931; a congregation was planned that would adhere to the fundamental principles of Judaism but still be alive to present-day thoughts and progress; and

WHEREAS, Temple Beth-El's congregation first met at the Scottish Rite Temple, then in Colombo Hall on West Broad Street; construction of a new building at 3330 Grove Avenue began in the late 1930s to accommodate a membership of 200 and a thriving school; the building was first dedicated in 1939, but due to hardships during the war years, the new building was not completed until 1949; through these years, membership steadily grew; and

WHEREAS, Temple Beth-El's mission is to lead people into a growing relationship with Jewish community, wisdom, and practice that helps them thrive intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually, and that inspires them to build a more compassionate, just, and peaceful world; and

WHEREAS, in order to provide for the spiritual, educational, and social needs of its members, Temple Beth-El provides and maintains synagogue facilities, cemetery facilities, and religious, educational, social, recreational, cultural, and other activities that preserve and strengthen Conservative Judaism; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That Temple Beth-El hereby be commended on the occasion of its 70th anniversary of worship at 3330 Grove Avenue; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Rabbi Michael Knopf, rabbi of Temple Beth-El, as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for Temple Beth-El's spiritual, communal, and educational legacy.