

2020 SESSION

ENROLLED

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 71

Commending the Lee-Mount Vernon Sports Club.

Agreed to by the Senate, March 8, 2020

WHEREAS, the Lee-Mount Vernon Sports Club, a youth sports club in Alexandria that has inspired countless young athletes, celebrates its 50th season in 2019-2020; and

WHEREAS, the Lee-Mount Vernon Sports Club traces its roots to August 1969 by John Walker from Hybla Valley, Dennis Smith from Hayfield, and a mutual baseball friend from Hayfield, Walt Ulica, who were discussing the need of youth soccer in the area; and

WHEREAS, a consensus emerged that soccer didn't limit participation for lack of size and could be a tool for more participation by individual team players than some other youth sports, and with that agreement, the Lee-Mount Vernon Sports Club was born; and

WHEREAS, the number one priority of the Lee-Mount Vernon Sports Club is to instill a love of soccer in local young people and encourage them to enjoy every moment of the game for its own sake; the club focuses on the sheer joy of playing, and, wherever feasible, keeps the emphasis on winning or losing to a minimum, allowing players to fall in love with the sport and build camaraderie with their teammates; and

WHEREAS, the Lee-Mount Vernon Sports Club includes more than 5,000 male and female players between the ages of two and 18 and demonstrates its dedication to the community by offering scholarships to 700 players annually; and

WHEREAS, throughout its history, the Lee-Mount Vernon Sports Club has contracted with independent assignors to obtain professional referee services and has developed an in-house program for providing FIFA/USSF certification for adults and youths who are interested in becoming referees; and

WHEREAS, these referees then work with the Lee-Mount Vernon Sports Club assignor to officiate the club's recreational and travel games, with the funds for referee pay each year derived solely from the registration fees and donations from the players; and

WHEREAS, the emphasis of the Lee-Mount Vernon Sports Club has always been on participation, skill development, good sportsmanship, and team play; to that end, the club has developed a league that provides for an increased level of play to meet the needs of the players; and

WHEREAS, over 50 years of success, the Lee-Mount Vernon Sports Club has allowed many young athletes to achieve their dreams of playing in college and in national and international professional leagues; and

WHEREAS, the Lee-Mount Vernon Sports Club has become a fixture of its local community and helped to promote values such as respect, fair play, and good citizenship; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate of Virginia, That the Lee-Mount Vernon Sports Club hereby be commended on the occasion of its 50th season; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Lee-Mount Vernon Sports Club as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's admiration for the organization's work to support young athletes and promote the values of respect, fair play, and good citizenship.

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