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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 140

Offered January 20, 2022

Commending the Rotary Club of Harrisonburg.

Patrons—Runion; Senators: Hanger and Obenshain

WHEREAS, the Rotary Club of Harrisonburg, a chapter of Rotary International serving the Harrisonburg and Rockingham County communities, celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Rotary Club of Harrisonburg was organized by the Rotary Club of Staunton at the Kavanaugh Hotel in Harrisonburg on March 12, 1921; the organization received its charter on April 1, 1921, and held its first official meeting eight days later, electing attorney Ed Martz to serve as president; and

WHEREAS, over its history, the Rotary Club of Harrisonburg has initiated numerous endeavors to serve area youth, including the Boy Scouts of America's Camp Shenandoah, a student college tuition loan program that later developed into a scholarship fund, the First Tee of Harrisonburg-Rotary Learning Center, and Project Read; and

WHEREAS, the Rotary Club of Harrisonburg was instrumental to the development of Harrisonburg's Westover Park and its Price Rotary Senior Center, and through Shenandoah Valley, Inc., helped to spearhead the establishment of Shenandoah National Park; and

WHEREAS, through its signature Code of Ethics award program, the Rotary Club of Harrisonburg annually recognizes a young boy and girl from each school in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County for demonstrating extraordinary ethical behavior; and

WHEREAS, the Rotary Club of Harrisonburg has sponsored both a dental clinic and orthopedic clinic in the region, which have each served more than 1,000 patients since opening; and

WHEREAS, the Rotary Club of Harrisonburg has supported numerous international humanitarian aid endeavors over the years, including the construction of a health services and vocational training center in Haiti, a leprosy program where a laundry facility and shelter over the water supply was built for a resettlement village in Korea, and the Well of Hope program through which communities, homes, and wells have been built for widows in Kenya; and

WHEREAS, the Rotary Club of Harrisonburg has supported its operations through various fundraisers over the years, including its antiques show and sale, local charities golf tournament, and most recently, its annual strawberry festival; and

WHEREAS, the Rotary Club of Harrisonburg has proudly sponsored several other Rotary International chapters in the region, including clubs in Bridgewater, Broadway-Timberville, Harrisonburg-Massanutten, Luray, Rockingham, Rocktown, Winchester, and Woodstock; and

WHEREAS, today, the Rotary Club of Harrisonburg boasts nearly 200 members, making it one of the largest chapters in Rotary International District 7570, an administrative unit that runs from Winchester to Johnson City, Tennessee, along the Interstate Highway 81 corridor; and

WHEREAS, four members of the Rotary Club of Harrisonburg have had the honor and privilege to serve as governor of Rotary International District 7570, including Lynn C. Dickerson, who served in 1944-1945, Percy H. Warren, who served in 1955-1956, Abe Clymer, who served in 1999-2000, and Chris Runion, who served in 2016-2017; and

WHEREAS, the accomplishments of the Rotary Club of Harrisonburg are made possible by its volunteer members who work tirelessly and give generously on behalf of the organization, fulfilling Rotary International's creed of "Service Above Self"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Rotary Club of Harrisonburg on the occasion of its 100th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Rotary Club of Harrisonburg as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the organization's contributions to the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED

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