

## 2023 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 800

Offered February 20, 2023

*Commending Ruritan National, Inc.*

Patrons—Knight; Senator: Cosgrove

WHEREAS, for 95 years, Ruritan National, Inc., has promoted fellowship, good will, and community service in communities across the Commonwealth and the United States; and

WHEREAS, Ruritan National was established by Tom Downing and Jack Gwaltney, and the first local club, the Holland Ruritan Club, was chartered in Nansemond County on May 21, 1928; and

WHEREAS, Ruritan clubs were originally designed to provide community outreach in small towns and rural areas, and the organization took its name from the Latin words for open county, "ruri," and small town, "tan"; the organization has since expanded to include clubs in urban areas; and

WHEREAS, Ruritan National oversees local clubs that are largely autonomous and free to pursue service opportunities and partnerships that allow them to best serve the unique needs of their communities; and

WHEREAS, Ruritan clubs work with Scouting organizations, 4-H, National FFA, youth athletics leagues, local clubs and recreational centers, and other local initiatives like anti-litter campaigns and programs to help seniors or other people in need; and

WHEREAS, Ruritan clubs strive to represent a cross-section of the communities they serve and are not restrictive with regard to occupation, social position, or any other specific criteria; and

WHEREAS, now headquartered in Pulaski County, Ruritan National has grown to encompass nearly 25,000 members in nearly 1,000 clubs nationwide and has become known as "America's Leading Community Service Organization"; and

WHEREAS, through its commitment to excellence in civic leadership, Ruritan National and its local clubs have touched the lives of generations of Virginians and Americans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Ruritan National, Inc., for its service to people throughout the Commonwealth and the United States on the occasion of its 95th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Ruritan National, Inc., as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the organization's work to create and support thriving communities across America.

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