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SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 92

Offered January 19, 2023

Commending the Virginia Petroleum and Convenience Marketers Association.

Patrons—Vogel and Saslaw

WHEREAS, the Virginia Petroleum and Convenience Marketers Association, a nonprofit, statewide trade association for the petroleum and convenience store industries, celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2023; and

WHEREAS, the origins of the Virginia Petroleum and Convenience Marketers Association (VPCMA) date to 1948, when a group of enthusiastic, young Virginia business owners, many of whom were veterans recently returned from World War II, joined together with the aim to promote petroleum distributors, provide educational and enrichment opportunities, and advocate on behalf of the industry on the state and local level; they created the Virginia Petroleum Jobbers Association that same year; and

WHEREAS, for three quarters of a century, the Virginia Petroleum Jobbers Association, which changed its name to the Virginia Petroleum and Convenience Marketers Association in 2014, has been a model of stability, with only three individuals serving in the role of president, including Elijah Davis Catterton from 1948 to 1986, Frank C. Bedell from 1987 to 1999, and Michael J. O'Connor from 2000 to present; and

WHEREAS, the advocacy efforts of VPCMA have benefited the Commonwealth in many ways; the organization supported the establishment of the Virginia Petroleum Storage Tank Fund, which serves as a model for public-private partnerships and which has generated an excess of \$710 million for environmental protection across the Commonwealth since its inception; and

WHEREAS, VPCMA works closely with its national partners, Energy Marketers of America and the National Association of Convenience Stores, to address federal legislative and regulatory issues impacting the organization's membership; and

WHEREAS, over the years, several members of the VPCMA have notably served as members in the General Assembly, including the Honorable L. Ray Ashworth of Wakefield, the Honorable Lewis W. Parker, Jr., of South Hill, and the Honorable Harry J. Parrish of Manassas; and

WHEREAS, VPCMA will celebrate its 75th anniversary with a series of events to be held September 24-27, 2023, where its members and their families will have the opportunity to reflect on the organization's many accomplishments over its history; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate of Virginia, That the Virginia Petroleum and Convenience Marketers Association hereby be commended on the occasion of its 75th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Virginia Petroleum and Convenience Marketers Association as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's admiration for the organization's history and its contributions to the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED

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