

# 2024 SPECIAL SESSION I

INTRODUCED

24200227D

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 704

Offered June 24, 2024

3 *Commending the Virginia Highlands Festival.*

4 Patron—O'Quinn

5 WHEREAS, for 75 years, the Virginia Highlands Festival has served as the premier event for showcasing  
6 the arts, traditions, history, and culture of Southwest Virginia; and

7 WHEREAS, originally known as the Virginia Highlands Festival of the Arts and Crafts, the Virginia  
8 Highlands Festival was first held in 1949 by Robert Porterfield, founder of the famed Barter Theatre in  
9 Abingdon, who aspired to establish an event to preserve and celebrate the cultural heritage of Southwest  
10 Virginia; and

11 WHEREAS, from the beginning, the aim of the Virginia Highlands Festival has been both to bring artists  
12 and lecturers to Abingdon for the benefit of the local community and to celebrate and honor the Appalachian  
13 folk traditions of the region; and

14 WHEREAS, today, the Virginia Highlands Festival features artists and performers from around the world  
15 who descend on Abingdon each year to participate in lively creative exchange and to appreciate the region  
16 and its residents; and

17 WHEREAS, the success of the Virginia Highlands Festival is made possible by the more than 100  
18 volunteers who work tirelessly to plan and staff the events, tours, performances, exhibitions, and other  
19 activities that are part of the festival; and

20 WHEREAS, the Virginia Highlands Festival effectively fosters community ties with the support of many  
21 local and regional partnerships that enable the event to present the creative, historical, and natural resources  
22 of the Appalachian region; and

23 WHEREAS, the next Virginia Highlands Festival will be held from July 26 to August 4, 2024, and will  
24 feature more 200 individual events and activities, including an award-winning arts and craft show, an  
25 antiques and vintage market, music concerts, guided hikes, lectures on local history and culture, the historic  
26 Writers & Readers Days literary showcase, and culinary offerings; and

27 WHEREAS, in recognition of its accomplishments as a celebration of Appalachian art and culture, the  
28 Virginia Highlands Festival has been voted “Best Art Event” in the region by readers of Virginia Living  
29 magazine; and

30 WHEREAS, over its history, the Virginia Highlands Festival has grown into one of Southwest Virginia's  
31 marquee annual events and an important part of what makes the region a wonderful place to live, work, and  
32 raise a family; now, therefore, be it

33 RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the Virginia Highlands Festival hereby be commended on  
34 the occasion of its 75th anniversary; and, be it

35 RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for  
36 presentation to organizers of the Virginia Highlands Festival as an expression of the House of Delegates'  
37 admiration for the event's history and its contributions to Southwest Virginia and the Commonwealth.

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