

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 750

*Commending Virginia Union University.*

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 18, 2025

WHEREAS, Virginia Union University, a private, historically Black university in Richmond, has promoted academic achievement, community engagement, and a commitment to excellence for 160 years; and

WHEREAS, established in 1865, Virginia Union University was originally known as the Colver Institute, then renamed as the Richmond Theological Institute, and adopted its current name after a merger with Wayland Seminary in 1899; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Union University has long been a beacon of opportunity and excellence, empowering students to become leaders who make a difference; and

WHEREAS, with its strong legacy and forward-looking vision, Virginia Union University continues to provide a transformative education that meets the evolving needs of students in the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Union University's commitment to academic excellence is evident in its continued growth and the success of its graduates; in 2024, the university celebrated a historic 125th Commencement Ceremony, with the largest graduating class in its history, 343 graduates, including the largest-ever cohort of graduate students; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, Virginia Union University was ranked 39th in the nation among Historically Black Colleges and Universities by *U.S. News & World Report*, underscoring the university's status as a leading institution of higher education and demonstrating its ongoing commitment to providing a quality education that prepares students for success in an increasingly competitive global workforce; and

WHEREAS, in addition to on-campus studies, Virginia Union University has launched several online degree programs designed to meet the needs of working professionals and students around the world, ensuring that the university's exceptional academic offerings are available to a wider, more diverse student body, including those seeking flexible learning opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Union University recently adopted a \$500 million Master Plan that will include strategic collaborations to foster innovation related to electric vehicles, the opening of the Industrial Hall and Gallery to support advancements in engineering, technology, and design, the development of a community wellness center, and the preservation of a historic hospital; the university also launched a \$250 million Capital Campaign to further support continued growth; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Union University remains grounded in its five core values—Innovation, Spiritual Formation, Integrity, Diversity and Inclusion, and Excellence—which continue to guide the university's mission and vision; these values ensure that every student is equipped to achieve their fullest potential and lead with purpose; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That Virginia Union University hereby be commended on the occasion of its 160th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Virginia Union University as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for its long and distinguished history and contributions to generations of students.

ENROLLED

HR750ER