

2024 SPECIAL SESSION I

ENROLLED

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 853

Commending the Mortar and Pestle Society.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, April 2, 2025

WHEREAS, the Mortar and Pestle Society, a nonprofit organization formerly known as the Landmarks Society that supports the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, has helped preserve the history and heritage of the Alexandria community for 90 years; and

WHEREAS, in 1792, Edward Stabler established an apothecary business in Alexandria that lasted until 1933, with he and his descendants guiding the business through many historic events, including the War of 1812 and the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, after the business closed in 1933, a public auction was held for the two remaining buildings and merchandise, and a group of Alexandria residents calling themselves the Landmark Society banded together to purchase the buildings and maintain part of the collection to preserve and interpret the apothecary's history; and

WHEREAS, the Landmarks Society, which officially formed in 1935, saved the two historic buildings, one built in 1805 and the other in 1815, and preserved more than 20,000 artifacts including mortar and pestle sets, pharmaceutical bottles, crock pottery jugs, early glass baby bottles, and perfume bottles, as well as 250 linear feet of archival materials, including ledgers, day books, orders, receipts, and prescription books; and

WHEREAS, on April 15, 1939, the Landmarks Society opened the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum located on South Fairfax Street in Alexandria, which has since welcomed countless visitors, including Eleanor Roosevelt in 1942; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, the Landmarks Society turned ownership and stewardship of the buildings and artifacts over to the City of Alexandria, and in 2009, the society reorganized as the Mortar and Pestle Society with a new mission to provide support for operations of the museum, which serves 25,000 visitors each year; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the Mortar and Pestle Society hereby be commended on the occasion of its 90th anniversary of service to the Alexandria community; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Mortar and Pestle Society as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for the organization's unique role in historic preservation.

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