

2026 SESSION

ENROLLED

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 158

Commending Rupa Vira.

Agreed to by the Senate, March 13, 2026

WHEREAS, Rupa Vira, an acclaimed culinary leader, restaurateur, and community advocate, has significantly enriched the cultural and culinary landscape of Northern Virginia through her work; and

WHEREAS, Rupa Vira has become widely recognized for her innovative interpretation of Indian cuisine and her commitment to sharing the depth and diversity of India's culinary heritage with the broader community; and

WHEREAS, born and raised in India, Rupa Vira developed a deep appreciation for traditional Indian cooking from a young age, learning family recipes and regional techniques that celebrated fresh ingredients, vibrant spices, and time-honored culinary traditions; after moving to the United States, Rupa Vira continued to nurture her passion for cooking while raising her family, eventually transforming that passion into a successful culinary career; and

WHEREAS, Rupa Vira began her professional journey by catering small events, where her creative vegetarian dishes and authentic flavors quickly gained recognition within the community; as demand for her cuisine grew, she opened her first professional kitchen in Ashburn, establishing the foundation for what would become a thriving culinary enterprise; and

WHEREAS, Rupa Vira's entrepreneurial vision led to the establishment of Rupa Vira's The Signature, a celebrated vegetarian Indian restaurant in Ashburn, followed by Celebration by Rupa Vira, a full-service restaurant and event venue known for its inventive cuisine and exceptional hospitality; and

WHEREAS, under Rupa Vira's leadership, her restaurants have earned numerous accolades and media recognition, including being named among *Northern Virginia Magazine's* "50 Best Restaurants" for multiple consecutive years, a distinction that highlights the region's most outstanding culinary establishments; her work has also been featured in prominent publications and culinary platforms, earning praise for redefining the perception of Indian cuisine in the United States; and

WHEREAS, beyond the kitchen, Rupa Vira has been a passionate advocate for cultural exchange and community engagement; through food festivals, charity events, culinary demonstrations, and collaborations with local organizations, she has helped foster a greater appreciation for Indian culture and cuisine throughout the Washington metropolitan region, and her restaurants frequently support charitable causes and community initiatives, reinforcing her belief that food is a powerful way to bring people together; and

WHEREAS, Rupa Vira is deeply committed to mentorship and hospitality leadership, inspiring aspiring chefs and hospitality professionals while maintaining the warmth and generosity that have become hallmarks of her establishments; and

WHEREAS, through her culinary excellence, entrepreneurial achievement, and dedication to community service, Rupa Vira has made a lasting impact on Virginia's vibrant dining scene and has become a respected ambassador of Indian cuisine and culture; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate of Virginia, That Rupa Vira hereby be commended on her immense contributions to the Commonwealth's culinary and cultural landscape; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Rupa Vira as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's respect and admiration for her achievements.

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