ENROLLED

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 430

Commending the Historic Masonic Theatre.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 13, 2026

WHEREAS, the Historic Masonic Theatre, the heart of cultural life in Clifton Forge and one of the longest-operating theatres in the Commonwealth, has advanced the performing arts and served the community for more than 120 years; and

WHEREAS, built in 1905 and officially opened in 1906, the Historic Masonic Theatre was originally known as the Mason Hall and Opera House and served as a meeting place for a local Masonic organization; in its early years, the theatre hosted speakers, concerts, vaudeville performances, and showings of newsreels, silent films, and classic cinema; and

WHEREAS, the Historic Masonic Theatre remains a vibrant center for the arts, offering live performances, film screenings, educational programming, and special events that highlight and celebrate the rich heritage and creative spirit of the Alleghany Highlands; and

WHEREAS, well-known as a community gathering place and living link to the region's past, the Historic Masonic Theatre underwent a $6.9 million restoration in 2016, which reestablished the theatre as a source of pride for both local residents and patrons of the arts; and

WHEREAS, in January 2025, the Historic Masonic Theatre launched a new three-year capital campaign, Opening Doors, which has since raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to support ongoing maintenance of this treasured landmark while creating new opportunities for artists, performers, and guests; and

WHEREAS, the Historic Masonic Theatre's commitment to educate, engage, and entertain audiences is reflected in its captivating performances and wide range of children's programs, workshops, and public forums; the theatre not only serves as a resource for local residents, but has also supported tourism and economic development in the region; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the Historic Masonic Theatre hereby be commended for its incomparable legacy of service to the Clifton Forge community over the course of more than 120 years; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Historic Masonic Theatre as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for its contributions to the performing arts and unique role as a cultural touchstone in the Alleghany Highlands.

ENROLLED