

2024 SPECIAL SESSION I

ENROLLED

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 793

Commending The Little Theatre of Alexandria.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, July 18, 2024

WHEREAS, for 90 years, The Little Theatre of Alexandria has presented a variety of high caliber stage productions, including emotional dramas, Broadway musicals, comedies, historical epics, and more, for the benefit of the Northern Virginia community; and

WHEREAS, the origins of The Little Theatre of Alexandria date to 1934, when Mary Lindsey, inspired by a community theater in Lynchburg, organized a local drama group known as the Peacock Players, which began to regularly meet at Gadsby's Tavern to plan three one-act plays; and

WHEREAS, the Peacock Players incorporated as The Little Theatre of Alexandria a year later and premiered with *Holiday* by Philip Barry at The Lyceum Hall, which served as the theater's primary stage in its early days; and

WHEREAS, The Little Theatre of Alexandria later opened its productions to the public and held performances at Gadsby's Tavern and Carlyle House, as well as at Alexandria's Cameron Street United Service Organizations Center during World War II; and

WHEREAS, The Little Theatre of Alexandria was granted a property lease by the Alexandria City Council in 1957, and four years later the company held its first performance in its permanent building at 600 Wolfe Street, where it continues to operate today; and

WHEREAS, The Little Theatre of Alexandria has played host to a number of dignitaries over the years, including United States presidents, senators, congressmen, and Supreme Court justices, as well as the famed playwright Thornton Wilder, who attended a production of his play *Our Town* in 1939; and

WHEREAS, The Little Theatre of Alexandria has fostered the stage ambitions of the hundreds of actors who have supported its productions, several of whom have gone on to achieve notable success in theater and television; and

WHEREAS, as a testament to the quality of its productions, The Little Theatre of Alexandria was presented 58 nominations from the Washington Area Theatre Community Honors in 2023 alone; and

WHEREAS, through the steadfast dedication of its members, The Little Theatre of Alexandria has become an exemplar of local theater and an important part of what makes Alexandria a wonderful place to live, work, and play; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That The Little Theatre of Alexandria hereby be commended on the occasion of its 90th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to The Little Theatre of Alexandria as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration and respect for the theater's contributions to Alexandria and the Commonwealth.

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