

2024 SPECIAL SESSION I

ENROLLED

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 815

Commending the Association of Kannada Kootas of America.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates July 18, 2024

WHEREAS, the Association of Kannada Kootas of America, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the Kannada community and promoting and preserving Kannada language and culture in North America, will hold its 12th World Kannada Conference from August 30 to September 1, 2024, at the Greater Richmond Convention Center in Richmond; and

WHEREAS, the Kannada community, whose members are often referred to as Kannadigas, is a cultural group that speaks the Kannada language and that traces its origins to the state of Karnataka in South India; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Kannada Kootas of America (AKKA) was founded in 1998 at the World Kannada Sammelana in Phoenix, Arizona, by prominent Kannadigas who felt a central organization would facilitate networking across the Kannada community in North America; and

WHEREAS, since its founding, AKKA has grown to include more than 40 chapters across the United States and Canada, connecting over 150,000 Kannadigas through various programs and activities in the areas of education, linguistics, culture, and business; and

WHEREAS, a major component of AKKA's outreach efforts is its World Kannada Conference, which was held for the first time in Houston in 2000; and

WHEREAS, AKKA World Kannada Conferences have previously included youth, business, and education forums to address specific issues and provide relevant skills for the benefit of Kannadigas of all ages, as well as arts showcases to provide artists from Karnataka with the opportunity to share their talents with those living in the United States; and

WHEREAS, by advancing a number of education and disaster relief initiatives through its charitable foundation, AKKA has improved the quality of life of many people, particularly in the state of Karnataka; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of its efforts to support the Kannada community both in the United States and abroad, AKKA was presented the Rajyotsava Award by the Karnataka government, one of the municipality's most distinguished honors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the Association of Kannada Kootas of America hereby be commended on the occasion of its 12th World Kannada Conference in 2024; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to representatives of the Association of Kannada Kootas of America as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for the organization's mission and best wishes for its continued success.

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