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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 444

Offered March 7, 2022

*Commending the Cuppett Performing Arts Center.*

Patron—Keam

WHEREAS, the Cuppett Performing Arts Center, a dance studio and company that has supported the growth and development of an untold number of dancers in the Vienna community, celebrates its 60th anniversary in 2022; and

WHEREAS, the origins of the Cuppett Performing Arts Center date to 1962, when Mother Catherine Loyola of Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic School in Vienna inspired Alzine Cuppett, who had trained with Gene Kelly and danced with the Radio City Rockettes, to provide dance lessons to the school's students; and

WHEREAS, shortly thereafter, Alzine Cuppett moved to a house on Old Courthouse Road in Vienna, where she built a custom-designed dance studio in the basement and founded the Cuppett School of Dance; and

WHEREAS, as the business continued to thrive, Alzine Cuppett moved into a commercial space in Vienna's Park Plaza Center and incorporated her company as the Cuppett Performing Arts Center; and

WHEREAS, the Cuppett Performing Arts Center has been family-run for three generations, with Alzine Cuppett's daughter Amy joining in 1996 and taking over as manager and director, while today her daughter Joyce helps with bookkeeping and Amy's niece Ashley runs marketing; and

WHEREAS, under Amy Cuppett's leadership, the Cuppett Performing Arts Center continued to expand its studio space and increase its enrollment, reaching approximately 750 students across five studios by the end of 2019; and

WHEREAS, today, the Cuppett Performing Arts Center teaches various dance styles, including Vaganova and Cecchetti ballet, jazz, modern, character, contemporary, hip-hop, and more to students at all levels from age three and up; and

WHEREAS, to share the talents of its students with the community, the Cuppett Performing Arts Center hosts both a full-length ballet and several recitals every year, while also organizing a dance company that appears regularly at events such as Vienna Halloween Parade, Oktoberfest, and ViVa! Vienna; and

WHEREAS, by promoting health and wellness, offering opportunities for creative expression, and fostering meaningful relationships, the Cuppett Performing Arts Center has made a positive difference in the lives of countless Vienna residents; and

WHEREAS, the accomplishments of the Cuppett Performing Arts Center are the result of the tireless dedication of its teachers, students, and staff, who will celebrate the organization's 60th anniversary throughout the year; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Cuppett Performing Arts Center on the occasion of its 60th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Cuppett Performing Arts Center as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the organization's contributions to the Commonwealth.