

## 2022 SESSION

ENROLLED

### SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 61

*Commending the Newport News (VA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated.*

Agreed to by the Senate, March 10, 2022

WHEREAS, the Newport News (VA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, a noble and distinguished organization serving the community of Newport News, celebrates its 70th anniversary in 2022; and

WHEREAS, exemplifying friendship and sisterhood, Hazel Reid of the Portsmouth Chapter of The Links, Inc., supported the establishment of the Newport News Chapter of The Links, Inc., with the organization's area director, Lottie Dinks, presiding over the installation service on February 15, 1952; and

WHEREAS, the charter members of the Newport News Chapter were ladies with varying careers and ambitions, including Alice Collins, Anne Cross, Vivian Dabney, Mildred Downing, Margaret Epps, Marion Erwin, Kay Frazier, Mattie Reid, Wray Robinson, Mae Scott, Mabel Smith, Inez Tucker, Rebecca Ward, Eva Winstead, and Sadie Yancey; and

WHEREAS, the Newport News Chapter's first activities focused on the arts, as the organization sponsored art shows, exhibitions, musical performances, book fairs, and poetry contests for local students; and

WHEREAS, over the years, the Newport News Chapter has aided the youth of the community through various initiatives, providing Christmas stockings at local hospitals, assisting students with scholarships and other financial aid, conducting tutorials at local churches, and furnishing transportation for children to attend performances at the Newport News Children's Theater and Hampton University; and

WHEREAS, the Newport News Chapter has donated more than \$13,000 to local civic agencies and scholarship winners while sponsoring Broadway productions such as "Raisin" at Chrysler Hall in Norfolk and "Dreamgirls" and "Motown Review" at the Ferguson Center for the Arts in Newport News; and

WHEREAS, time and again, the Newport News Chapter's "Diamonds and Denim" community fundraisers have brought the community together for good fun in support of a great cause; and

WHEREAS, inspired by former National Aeronautics and Space Administration employee and organization alumnae member Dr. Christine Mann Darden, the Newport News Chapter recently chartered a National Science of Black Engineering Jr. chapter; and

WHEREAS, the accomplishments of the Newport News Chapter over the past 70 years are the result of the vision of its founders and the resolute dedication of its members, who will maintain the organization's traditions of excellence for many more years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate of Virginia, That the Newport News (VA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, hereby be commended on the occasion of its 70th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Newport News (VA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's admiration for the organization's history and its many contributions to the Commonwealth.

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