

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 635

By Akbari

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize The Links, Incorporated.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to honor and specially commend those distinguished organizations whose stated goals advance the most noble precepts of human endeavors and whose history of service in pursuit of those goals stands as an outstanding example to the citizens of this great State; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable organization that evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all its chosen endeavors is The Links, Incorporated; and

WHEREAS, The Links is an international, not-for-profit corporation composed of 12,000 professional women of color who are committed to enhancing the quality of life in their respective communities, which are served by 274 chapters located in forty-two states, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas; and

WHEREAS, accomplished, dedicated women who are active in public and charitable programs, the members of The Links are some of the most influential women in the world; they are business and civic leaders, role models, mentors, activists, and volunteers, and they work assiduously toward a common vision by making The Links synonymous with not only a chain of friendship, but also a chain of purposeful public service; and

WHEREAS, The Links is one of the nation's oldest and largest volunteer service organizations, and it is committed to enriching, sustaining, and ensuring the cultural and economic survival of African Americans and other persons of African descent; the organization is the recipient of prestigious awards from the UN Association of New York and the Leon H. Sullivan Foundation for its prized programs and for its consummate 500,000 documented hours of community service contributed annually; and

WHEREAS, built on the principles of advocacy and service, The Links is strongly committed to making a difference in communities across this country and around the world; wherever its members may reside, they strive, both individually and collectively, to achieve equality for the thousands of people who rely on The Links for support; and

WHEREAS, on a practical level, The Links seeks to facilitate positive change through its support of solid initiatives in the arts, services to youth, and national and international trends; and

WHEREAS, The Links' one-million-dollar contributions to the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, the United Negro College Fund, and the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis have served to perpetuate educational opportunity and advancement and have furthered justice throughout this great land; and

WHEREAS, once again on March 28, 2016, the respected members will gather for The Links Days on Capitol Hill, during which time these incredible women from across the State will attend various committee meetings, while other individuals from The Links will meet with their local legislators to discuss bills that impact the members' communities; and

WHEREAS, the women of The Links are wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the Volunteer State. As ambassadors of those very precepts, whether they are Tennesseans or honorary Tennesseans, the members of The Links should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we commend the members of The Links, Incorporated, for their exemplary service to their respective communities and to this nation and their ongoing commitment to attaining equality for all people, regardless of their race, religion, or socioeconomic background.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we welcome the members of the Tennessee chapters of The Links to Nashville in honor of The Links Days on Capitol Hill.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.