

SENATE RESOLUTION 260

By Akbari

A RESOLUTION to commend the members of The Links,
Incorporated.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should 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, Incorporated is an international, not-for-profit corporation composed of more than 16,000 professional women of color who are committed to enhancing the quality of life in their respective communities, which are served by 292 chapters located in forty-one states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, and the United Kingdom; and

WHEREAS, accomplished, dedicated women who are active in public and charitable programs, the members of The Links, Incorporated 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, Incorporated synonymous with not only a chain of friendship, but also a chain of purposeful public service; and

WHEREAS, The Links, Incorporated 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 one million documented hours of community service contributed annually; and

WHEREAS, built on the principles of advocacy and service, The Links, Incorporated 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, Incorporated for support; and

WHEREAS, on a practical level, The Links, Incorporated 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, Incorporated's 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 during the second week of March, on March 12-13, 2024, the respected members of the ten chapters of The Links, Incorporated of Tennessee (Chattanooga, Hendersonville Area, Jackson, Knoxville, Memphis, Music City, Nashville, Parthenon, River City, and Shelby County) gather for their 14th Annual Links Day At the State Capitol (LDASC) with the theme "Tennessee Linking Democracy, Justice and Voting," and during which time these incredible women interface with Tennessee legislators to discuss bills and legislative priorities of importance to members of their communities; and

WHEREAS, this two-day event has been made possible by the hard work of the LDASC Planning Committee headed by Co-Chairs Ms. Janice Woodard and Ms. Paulette Coleman, the Host Chapter (Parthenon, Tennessee) President Ms. Rhonda Cantrell Dunn, and Honorary Chair Senator Raumesh Akbari; and

WHEREAS, the women of The Links, Incorporated 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, Incorporated should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, 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 an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.