

# 2014 SPECIAL SESSION I

ENROLLED

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5174

*Commending Roanoke Valley Sister Cities, Inc.*

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, September 18, 2014

Agreed to by the Senate, September 18, 2014

WHEREAS, in 2014, Roanoke Valley Sister Cities, Inc., celebrates 50 years of building respect and cooperation between the residents of the Roanoke Valley and members of different cultures throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, first envisioned by former President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Sister Cities International was created in 1956 to enhance communities through citizen diplomacy and direct, city-to-city links; the organization has facilitated approximately 2,400 partnerships in 134 countries; and

WHEREAS, Roanoke Valley Sister Cities was founded in 1964 by Dr. Young U. Kim in Wonju, Korea, and Bill and Magdalen Poff in Roanoke; between 1976 and 1998, the program established additional partnerships with Kisumu, Kenya; Pskov, Russia; Florianópolis, Brazil; Opole, Poland; Lijiang, China; and Saint-Lô, France, to connect local residents with communities around the world; and

WHEREAS, through a wide range of programs, Roanoke Valley residents can learn about other cultures by meeting visitors and exchanging letters, tapes, and literature; Roanoke Valley Sister Cities comprises seven executive committees, each of which plans and realizes its own projects to best serve the community; and

WHEREAS, Roanoke Valley Sister Cities also works with schools, universities, local governments, churches, civic and service clubs, and festivals such as Local Colors to provide opportunities to experience music, dance, art, dress, cuisine, and languages from other countries; and

WHEREAS, Roanoke Valley Sister Cities will commemorate its 50th anniversary with a gala at Center in the Square on October 15, 2014; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Roanoke Valley Sister Cities, Inc., on the occasion of its 50th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Roanoke Valley Sister Cities, Inc., as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for its commitment to enhancing the Roanoke community and efforts to build friendship and respect throughout the world.

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