

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 212

By Parkinson

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Lila Hood, executive director of The Blue Violin Foundation, for outstanding artistic leadership in Memphis.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Lila Hood of Memphis is one such estimable person, who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, during her sophomore year of college in 1992, Ms. Hood was selected to work under Maestro Isaac Stern and Maestro Emeritus Alexander Schneider with the New York String Orchestra and perform at Carnegie Hall; and

WHEREAS, unsettled by the lack of diversity in classical music, Lila Hood realized that many children from artistically underserved communities were not exposed to classical music. As a result, she established a performing arts company in Washington, D.C., to introduce more children to this genre of music; and

WHEREAS, moving the company to Memphis in 2001, Ms. Hood, the executive director, established The Blue Violin Foundation, a fully functioning nonprofit organization with an outstanding faculty who train children from artistically underserved communities in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Lila Hood designed the curriculum for private lessons, master classes, group instruction, and classroom instruction for all levels, including early childhood, elementary, middle, secondary, and postsecondary coursework. In addition, she has arranged tours around

the country for student groups and has led teacher-training workshops for the Lincoln Center;
and

WHEREAS, the only Suzuki program in Memphis that has a strong multicultural base, The Blue Violin Foundation provides students with a path to develop string technique using the Suzuki methods while building self-esteem, self-confidence, and creative expression; and

WHEREAS, now in its fifteenth season in Memphis, The Blue Violin Foundation is thriving, with some students pursuing their music in college and through professional opportunities; and

WHEREAS, within the region of Tennessee, Arkansas, and Mississippi, Ms. Hood works as a Wolf Trap training teacher for the Delta Arts Council, and she helps teachers incorporate music into Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) learning concepts as well as the innovative Science and Technology interpreted through Engineering and the Arts, all based in Mathematical elements (STEAM) models; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hood has been duly recognized for her work in introducing music to a diverse group of young people in urban and suburban communities; she is a 2012 Jefferson Award recipient; and

WHEREAS, believing that “music is a universal language,” Ms. Hood and The Blue Violin Foundation have served the Memphis community in excellence, demonstrating the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of true Tennesseans; 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 honor and commend Lila Hood, executive director of The Blue Violin Foundation, for outstanding artistic leadership in Memphis and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

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