

**2003 SESSION**

**ENROLLED**

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 649**

*Designating November, in 2003 and in each succeeding year, as National Marrow Awareness Month in Virginia.*

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, January 30, 2003

Agreed to by the Senate, February 13, 2003

WHEREAS, every day, more than 300 people in the United States are diagnosed with leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma, or other bone marrow treatable cancer; and

WHEREAS, in 2001 more than 60,000 Americans died from these cancers, many of whom could have benefited from bone marrow transplants; and

WHEREAS, the National Marrow Donor Program, a nonprofit organization founded in 1986, facilitates unrelated donor stem cell transplants for patients with life-threatening blood diseases who do not have matching donors in their families; and

WHEREAS, with a diverse registry of more than 4.5 million potential donors, the National Marrow Donor Program has provided transplants to more than 13,000 patients; and

WHEREAS, the National Marrow Donor Program has also developed educational and recruitment initiatives, increased the number of minority transplant recipients, and developed patient advocacy services; and

WHEREAS, the National Marrow Donor Program has succeeded in increasing the number of transplants in each year of its existence, to a total of 1,743 in 2001, and more than 1,000 in the first half of 2002; and

WHEREAS, the need for more potential donors is critical to increasing the number of transplants and thereby decreasing the number of deaths caused by marrow-related blood diseases; and

WHEREAS, the National Marrow Donor Program sponsors National Marrow Awareness Month each November to recognize the donors, patients, and others who make marrow and blood stem cell transplants possible; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly designate November, in 2003 and in each succeeding year, as National Marrow Awareness Month in Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the General Assembly urge the citizens of the Commonwealth to learn about marrow donation programs and to volunteer for the National Marrow Donor Program; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit a copy of this resolution to the chief executive officer of the National Marrow Donor Program, requesting that he disseminate copies of this resolution to affiliated donor centers, so that members of the Program and such donor centers may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates post the designation of this month on the General Assembly's website.

**ENROLLED**

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