

2004 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 454

Commending Doris J. Ward.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 12, 2004
Agreed to by the Senate, March 13, 2004

WHEREAS, Doris J. Ward is the founder of Bethany House of Northern Virginia, Inc., established in 1979 to meet the needs of battered spouses and their families; and

WHEREAS, while working with families in Washington, D.C., Doris Ward, a former Arlington County schoolteacher, saw firsthand the growing crisis of domestic violence in the Washington metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, Doris Ward saw a lack of shelters, an absence of low-cost housing, and a long waiting period for assistance; and

WHEREAS, motivated by the absence of shelters and support services for the victims of domestic violence and abuse, Doris Ward established Bethany House of Northern Virginia, Inc., to fill the needs of battered spouses and their children; and

WHEREAS, under the direction of Doris Ward, Bethany House of Northern Virginia has monitored victims' needs and developed innovative programs, many of which have evolved into a comprehensive support service network, the Family Assistance Program; and

WHEREAS, Bethany House of Northern Virginia was established to care for spouses and their children who have been victimized by domestic violence and abuse and in the past year has assisted 305 spouses and 363 children; and

WHEREAS, Bethany House of Northern Virginia serves a diverse group of clients from Fairfax, Arlington, Prince William, and Loudoun Counties and the Cities of Falls Church and Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, recently, Bethany House of Northern Virginia was the recipient of an award from Fairfax County that cited the agency for its contributions to a statewide study that analyzed resource allocation of critical services; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Doris J. Ward for her nearly 25 years of outstanding service to the battered spouses and children of Northern Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Doris J. Ward as an expression of the appreciation and admiration of the General Assembly for her dedicated leadership of Bethany House of Northern Virginia, Inc.

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