

## 2005 SESSION

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### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 728

Offered January 12, 2005

Prefiled January 12, 2005

*Commending Pamela Clark.*

Patrons—Armstrong; Senator: Reynolds

WHEREAS, following a week-long competition with women from around the United States, Ms. Wheelchair Virginia, Pamela Clark of Martinsville, was named second runner-up in the Ms. Wheelchair America program held in Richmond July 27 through August 1, 2004; and

WHEREAS, other finalists, including Pamela Clark, and the winner Juliette Rizzo of Maryland were announced at a crowning gala held on July 31, 2004; and

WHEREAS, crowned Ms. Wheelchair Virginia in March 2004, Pamela Clark traveled extensively throughout the Commonwealth as a spirited advocate for persons with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Wheelchair Virginia and Ms. Wheelchair America are non-profit organizations that highlight the accomplishments of women with disabilities, educate the community for greater understanding of the competencies of all persons with disabilities, and advocate for the need to remove barriers and increase accessibility in public places; and

WHEREAS, Pamela Clark received a bachelor of science degree in early childhood education from James Madison University, a master's degree in curriculum and instruction, as well as a doctoral degree in educational administration from the University of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, a 39 year-old paraplegic, Pamela Clark, sustained her spinal cord injury in a motorcycle accident in May 2001; and

WHEREAS, Pamela Clark, an excellent speaker and mentor, shares her vibrant message that persons with disabilities have untapped potential and are people of great achievement and ability; and

WHEREAS, Pamela Clark's platform stresses education, awareness, and accessibility and urges that not only the architectural, but the attitudinal barriers that impede the quality of life for more than 50 million Americans with disabilities must be removed; and

WHEREAS, Pamela Clark gives freely of her time and immense talents as a member of the board of directors for numerous civic organizations including the United Way, the Faith Fellowship, the Jail Ministry, and the Virginia Racing Museum; and

WHEREAS, having taught in kindergarten, in secondary school, and in community college, Pamela Clark currently serves as the coordinator for the Piedmont Tech Prep Consortium, Division of Workforce Services at Piedmont Virginia Community College; and

WHEREAS, with an enthusiasm for life that is infectious, Pamela Clark is confident, spiritual, and hard-working, and a remarkable emissary of the Commonwealth and an inspiration for its citizens; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Pamela Clark for her outstanding achievements as Ms. Wheelchair Virginia and her great success as a finalist in the Ms. Wheelchair America program; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Pamela Clark as an expression of the General Assembly's gratitude and admiration for her outstanding service and commitment to the rights of citizens with disabilities throughout the Commonwealth.

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