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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 341

Offered January 10, 2007

Prefiled January 5, 2007

Commending The Arc of Northern Virginia on the occasion of its 45th anniversary.

Patrons—Devolites Davis and O'Brien

WHEREAS, in 2007, The Arc of Northern Virginia celebrates 45 years of service to citizens in need and their families in the Counties of Arlington and Fairfax and the Cities of Fairfax, Alexandria, and Falls Church; and

WHEREAS, The Arc of Northern Virginia was founded in 1962 in affiliation with The Arc of the United States, originally called The Association for Retarded Children (The Arc), which was established in 1947 by a group of courageous parents seeking adequate school services for children with mental retardation and other severe disorders; and

WHEREAS, committed to the future and "Building Communities for Citizens with Disabilities," The Arc of Northern Virginia is one of the many Virginia chapters that today continues in The Arc tradition, to provide awareness, advocacy, support programs, education, and training for citizens with mental retardation and developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the mission of The Arc of Northern Virginia is to improve the quality of life for all citizens in need who have mental disorders and disabilities and to enable them to enjoy "a life like yours"; and

WHEREAS, The Arc of Northern Virginia is operated by a small staff of dedicated professionals and parents, augmented by a network of 1,500 caring members and volunteers, and serves as a local resource for more than 15,000 citizens in need and their families in Northern Virginia; and

WHEREAS, The Arc of Northern Virginia's website receives 11,000 inquiries a year, resulting in 300 personal information and referral calls a month; its weekly e-mail newsletter, *The Arc ReSources*, reaches 2,500 people; and its training programs and special activities serve well over 2,000 people a year; and

WHEREAS, The Arc of Northern Virginia's *A Life Like Yours* education campaign has helped increase awareness, resources, and the level of commitment to help citizens in need in the Commonwealth, raising \$500 million for individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, The Arc of Northern Virginia has received numerous awards for its outstanding programs and services, including the Community Trustee Non-Profit Leadership Award by Leadership Fairfax, Inc., and The Arc of Virginia Chapter Award for community implementation of the *A Life Like Yours* campaign; and

WHEREAS, The Arc of Northern Virginia makes a tremendous difference in the lives of countless of the Commonwealth's citizens in need, their loved ones, and their caregivers every day; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend and congratulate The Arc of Northern Virginia on the occasion of its 45th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to The Arc of Northern Virginia as an expression of the General Assembly's gratitude for its commitment and advocacy on behalf of people with mental retardation and developmental disabilities.

INTRODUCED

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