

2008 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13

Celebrating the life of Rebecca Clary Harris.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, January 11, 2008
Agreed to by the Senate, January 17, 2008

WHEREAS, Rebecca Clary Harris of Richmond, a talented young woman, community volunteer, and dedicated physician, departed from this life on September 8, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Rebecca "Becca" Clary was born in San Antonio, Texas, on February 9, 1975; she grew up in Richmond, attended Saint Bridget's School, graduated from Saint Catherine's School, and earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, from a very early age, Rebecca Clary Harris dreamed of becoming a doctor and in high school at Saint Catherine's School, she won an award for her study with Dr. Hazel Konerding; and

WHEREAS, Rebecca Clary Harris taught at Saint Catherine's School as a kindergarten aide for a short while before returning to college to complete a master's degree in physiology at the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) School of Medicine; and

WHEREAS, in 2005 Rebecca Clary Harris fulfilled her lifelong dream of becoming the third-generation in the Clary family to earn a medical degree, and in that same year, she married her soul mate Justin Dillard Harris of Charlottesville; and

WHEREAS, Rebecca Clary Harris completed a residency in internal medicine at VCU and had begun a two-year commitment as a research fellow studying melanoma immunotherapy in the laboratory of Dr. Craig Slingluff at the University of Virginia at the time of her death; she held a National Institute of Health grant through the Beirne B. Carter Center to support her important work; and

WHEREAS, committed to the well-being of her fellow citizens, Rebecca Clary Harris furthered her interest in skin diseases, working with the Check Your Skin Club to raise melanoma awareness in the community; and she served as a Young Life leader, and as a volunteer for Meals on Wheels and the Fan Free Clinic; and

WHEREAS, Rebecca Clary Harris served as a camp counselor for Virginia Commonwealth University's Exploring Health Care program, a mentor for the University of Richmond's Premedical Mentorship program, and a group leader for the Foundations of Clinical Medicine Program; and

WHEREAS, her faith in God was evidenced as a member of Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church in Richmond, where Rebecca Clary Harris was a Sunday school teacher and an enthusiastic participant in the church's many activities in the community and abroad, including its recent medical mission to the Dominican Republic; and

WHEREAS, Rebecca Clary Harris will be fondly remembered for her beautiful countenance, her charitable nature, and her dedication as a physician and is greatly missed by her devoted husband Justin; her parents, Dr. and Mrs. Richard M. Clary; her sisters Kathryn and Margaret; and her numerous other loving family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly note with great sadness the untimely loss of a talented young woman and outstanding Virginian, Rebecca Clary Harris; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Rebecca Clary Harris as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for her memory.

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