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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 220

Offered February 25, 2010

*Commending Holly Norris.*

Patrons—Howell; Delegates: Plum and Rust

WHEREAS, Holly Norris was honored by the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce and Reston Interfaith, Inc., with a prestigious 2010 Best of Reston award; and

WHEREAS, the Best of Reston awards were established to recognize individuals, businesses, and organizations that have demonstrated a strong commitment to serving the Reston community and improving the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, Holly Norris is motivated by a personal mission of actively helping others with whom she lives and works; and

WHEREAS, while growing up, Holly Norris and her family faced financial challenges that developed in her a strong desire to encourage others facing similar obstacles; and

WHEREAS, after her high school graduation, Holly Norris joined the United States Army, served the country with honor, and then used GI funding to earn a bachelor's degree at George Mason University; and

WHEREAS, Holly Norris currently serves as the Director of Environmental Services at the Reston Hospital Center, where she has worked for the past 11 years; and

WHEREAS, Holly Norris manages 37 employees, many of whom do not speak English and work second jobs in order to make ends meet due to the high cost of living in Fairfax County; she was instrumental in bringing English as a Second Language courses to the hospital, and personally helped many of her staff enroll in courses through the hospital's onsite educational programs; and

WHEREAS, many former environmental services employees now serve patients as registered nurses, aides, and medical coders because Holly Norris believed in them and took time to tell them that they could advance their careers; and

WHEREAS, Holly Norris is described as "the voice, hands, and legs behind the hospital's philanthropic efforts" and received an HCA Frist Humanitarian Award for her outstanding efforts; and

WHEREAS, Holly Norris has supported a wide variety of community events, including the American Heart Association's Heart Walk, the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, the Relay for Life Reston, and Reston Interfaith's Help the Homeless Walkathon, and she encourages her colleagues to participate in food, coat, backpack, and toy drives to help the less fortunate in Reston; and

WHEREAS, outside of work, Holly Norris actively gives back to the military community by arranging for care packages and cards to be sent to the men and women serving overseas and volunteers with the wounded warriors at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, Holly Norris's coworkers, neighbors, friends, and acquaintances have been touched by her courage, compassion, and humility, and she serves as a shining example and leader for others in the Reston community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly commend Holly Norris on her outstanding service to the residents of Northern Virginia and on her well-deserved honor as a 2010 Best of Reston award recipient; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Holly Norris as an expression of the General Assembly's gratitude for her efforts on behalf of the community of Reston.