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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 517

Offered January 12, 2011

Prefiled November 22, 2010

*Commending the Virginia Child Identification Program.*

Patron—Loupassi

WHEREAS, the Virginia Child Identification Program, a charitable initiative of the Virginia Masonic Lodges, is commended for its work to enhance the safety of Virginia's youth; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Child Identification Program, "VACHIP," collects information from parents or guardians about their child and assembles a package that can then be given to the parents or guardians; and

WHEREAS, the compiled identifying information consists of four major parts: a short recorded interview, digital still photographs, fingerprinting, and dental bite impression or cheek swab; and

WHEREAS, in the unfortunate event that a child is missing, the identifying information contained in the package can be given to law-enforcement officials to expedite the search and recovery of the missing child; and

WHEREAS, precious time can be saved when a child is missing and identifying information is quickly made available to law enforcement for use in an Amber Alert; and

WHEREAS, in 2008 and 2009, approximately 27,000 children were reported missing in Virginia, with almost 93 percent located by the end of 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Freemasons generously volunteer their time and schedule VACHIP events in communities throughout Virginia, frequently partnering with local law-enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Freemasons have held 778 VACHIP events around the Commonwealth and provided identification packets for 35,026 children; and

WHEREAS, VACHIP provides a valuable service free of charge to the families of the Commonwealth and is a worthy recipient of commendation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend the Virginia Child Identification Program for its ongoing efforts to enhance the safety of Virginia's youth; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Virginia Child Identification Program as an expression of the General Assembly's respect and admiration for the Program's work and commitment to the youth of the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED

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