

2012 SESSION

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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 38

Offered February 24, 2012

Commending Temple Rodef Shalom.

Patrons—Filler-Corn, Brink, Comstock, Englin and Scott, J.M.

WHEREAS, Temple Rodef Shalom in Falls Church celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2012; and

WHEREAS, in the first year after Temple Rodef Shalom was founded in 1962, the fledgling congregation numbered only 30 families, but their faith was strong, and in 1963, Rabbi Laszlo Berkowits, a survivor of Auschwitz, became the leader of the synagogue; and

WHEREAS, the congregation of Temple Rodef Shalom has grown to more than 1,500 families, and the Northern Virginia synagogue has become the largest Jewish congregation in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Temple Rodef Shalom strives to engage and serve members with spiritual, educational, and social programs; the synagogue is home to a preschool, summer camp, scout troops, and other organizations, and all are examples of its deep roots in the greater Washington, D.C., area; and

WHEREAS, the members of Temple Rodef Shalom believe in helping those in need in the community, and the synagogue is a cofounder of Chesterbrook Residences, a mixed-income assisted living facility; the synagogue also has been involved in hospice care and has a holiday soup kitchen; and

WHEREAS, to celebrate its half-century, Temple Rodef Shalom will have a series of special events, and members of the temple have pledged to perform 50,000 mitzvahs, or moral deeds, throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, during its half-century of existence, the members of Temple Rodef Shalom have striven to build a sacred community united by common goals and ideals, where all members are embraced, Jewish traditions are honored, and a spiritual link to Israel is fostered; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That Temple Rodef Shalom hereby be commended on the occasion of its 50th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Laszlo Berkowits, founding rabbi of Temple Rodef Shalom, as an expression of the House of Delegates' respect and admiration for the temple's service to its members and the community.

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