

## 2013 SESSION

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### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 958

Offered February 18, 2013

*Commending Dona Dei.*

Patron—Plum

WHEREAS, Dona Dei, the director of program services for the Maryland-National Capital Area chapter of the March of Dimes, has been a tireless advocate for mothers and babies in the Commonwealth for 21 years; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the March of Dimes National Nurse Advisory Council, Dona Dei has helped direct the organization's education program and provided guidance on continuing nursing education activities, nursing grand rounds, and graduate nursing scholarships; and

WHEREAS, Dona Dei met with other council members and staff annually to review existing programs, suggest new directions, and establish networking opportunities; she provided critical guidance throughout the year to address immediate issues and evaluate the effectiveness of current activities; and

WHEREAS, thanks to Dona Dei's efforts, more babies now benefit from their mother's use of folic acid, which can protect them from birth defects; more babies are screened for conditions that can be treated if detected at birth; and more babies and their mothers are covered by health insurance; and

WHEREAS, during the March of Dimes folic acid campaign, Dona Dei recruited her mother to help raise awareness for the use of folic acid among women of childbearing age; on Advocacy Day, Dona Dei took to the streets herself and handed out samples of folic acid; and

WHEREAS, a supportive leader who encourages everyone to do their best, Dona Dei has shown exemplary skill in recruiting and mentoring volunteers; she is talented at making even mundane meetings fun and enlightening; and

WHEREAS, as the chair of the Northern Virginia Perinatal Council, Dona Dei set high standards for collaboration on and improvement of health care delivery in the region; she introduced the Centering Pregnancy prenatal care model and has promoted this care delivery model at many sites; and

WHEREAS, Dona Dei manages five neonatal intensive care unit family support projects in obstetrical hospitals; these projects give support and education to staff and families providing critical care to newborns; and

WHEREAS, Dona Dei has mentored and trained countless interns over the years and has helped guide them into productive and successful careers; and

WHEREAS, Dona Dei is a caring, selfless, thoughtful, and inspiring professional; she has created a legacy through her own contributions and has been an incredible mentor and role model for future public health advocates; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Dona Dei on the occasion of her retirement as the director of program services for the Maryland-National Capital Area chapter of the March of Dimes; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Dona Dei as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for her dedication to serving families in the Commonwealth.

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