

2013 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 199

Commending Raj Khalsa Gurdwara.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 21, 2013

WHEREAS, Raj Khalsa Gurdwara, a Sikh temple located in Sterling, faithfully serves the spiritual needs of its members and reaches out to the greater community; and

WHEREAS, Raj Khalsa Gurdwara traces its roots to Yogi Bhajan, who, more than 40 years ago, established a community, known as Ahimsa Ashram, in Washington, D.C., that was based on Sikh and yogic practices; and

WHEREAS, in 1970 the community opened a vegetarian restaurant, the Golden Temple Conscious Cookery, that enjoyed great success during its decade of operation; and

WHEREAS, in 1978 the community established and operated a Khalsa pre-school and then built a school for its young people in Amritsar, India, known as Miri Piri Academy; and

WHEREAS, the community members moved from Washington, D.C., to Herndon and Great Falls and established in 1980 a Gurdwara, place of worship, in Sterling, where it held Sunday services; and

WHEREAS, in 1998 the Gurdwara quadrupled its square footage and added a kitchen and Dharma schoolroom to meet the needs of its growing membership and Yogi Bhajan renamed the facility Raj Khalsa Gurdwara; and

WHEREAS, today, Raj Khalsa Gurdwara welcomes approximately 500 to 600 members who enjoy fellowship, service, and worship in an environment of mutual respect and friendship; and

WHEREAS, the members of Raj Khalsa Gurdwara, part of the rich cultural fabric of the Commonwealth, make many valuable contributions as they work in a variety of professions and businesses and contribute to their local communities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That Raj Khalsa Gurdwara hereby be commended for its decades of service to its members; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Raj Khalsa Gurdwara as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for the temple's commitment to its members and service to the community.

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