

## 2015 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 725

Offered January 30, 2015

*Commending Didlake.*

Patrons—Anderson; Senator: Barker

WHEREAS, Didlake, a nonprofit organization in Manassas, has served and supported adults and children with disabilities in the Commonwealth, Maryland, and Washington, D.C., for 50 years; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1965 as a school for children with disabilities, Didlake did not originally qualify for public funding; parents raised money for the school by selling fireworks on Sudley Road in Manassas; and

WHEREAS, by 2015, Didlake had adapted its mission to providing employment and rehabilitation services, and it had become the largest employer of people with disabilities in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Didlake serves more than 2,000 people with disabilities annually through job placement services, training, education, and transportation programs; 84 percent of Didlake's clients are residents of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Didlake operates 28 AbilityOne contract sites, and 78 percent of the company's contract work hours are performed by people with disabilities; in 2013, Didlake also helped place 441 employees in positions with 246 community employers; and

WHEREAS, operating five community-based support programs in the Commonwealth, Didlake has helped hundreds of Virginians become active, productive members of their communities; and

WHEREAS, Didlake is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities and approved by the United States Department of Labor, the Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, and several Virginia agencies; and

WHEREAS, to better and more efficiently serve its clients, Didlake works with SourceAmerica, the National Council of Work Centers, the Coalition for Human Services, the American Congress of Community Support and Employment Services, and the Virginia Network of Private Providers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Didlake 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 Didlake as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for its diligent work to enrich the lives of people with disabilities.

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