

## 2017 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 729

Offered January 12, 2017

*Commending New Hope Housing.*

Patrons—Krizek, Sickles and Watts; Senator: Ebbin

WHEREAS, in 2016, New Hope Housing celebrated the 30th anniversary of the opening of the Eleanor U. Kennedy Shelter, one of its six emergency shelters, which has provided safe, welcoming housing to hundreds of community members over the years; and

WHEREAS, New Hope Housing's Eleanor U. Kennedy Shelter traces its deepest roots to the early 1980s, when the Reverend Vin Harwell of Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church initiated a meeting to discuss the need for winter housing for the homeless; and

WHEREAS, Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church and other local churches used cots and blankets generously provided by the United States Army to house members of the community in the winter of 1983; and

WHEREAS, seeking a more permanent housing solution, Fairfax County worked with the United States Army to refurbish the water treatment building at Fort Belvoir, which opened as the South County Community Shelter on December 14, 1986; and

WHEREAS, in September 1989, the 50-bed facility was renamed in honor of Eleanor U. Kennedy, a founder of New Hope Housing and a longtime member of the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, New Hope Housing has helped former residents of the Eleanor U. Kennedy Shelter, including numerous veterans of the United States Armed Forces, to find permanent or supportive housing, move in with family or friends, or seek additional care; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend New Hope Housing on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the opening of the Eleanor U. Kennedy Shelter; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to New Hope Housing as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for its commitment to ending the cycle of homelessness.

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