

2018 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 330

Offered February 22, 2018

Commending the Brent Berry Food Drive.

Patrons—Wilt; Senator: Obenshain

WHEREAS, the Brent Berry Food Drive, a food collection program in Harrisonburg that has provided meals to thousands of needy families, celebrates its 10th anniversary in March 2018; and

WHEREAS, launched in 2009, the Brent Berry Food Drive is an annual charitable initiative organized by the members of the Berry family, which includes James "Bucky" Berry, his wife, Pamela, and their 19-year-old son, Brent; and

WHEREAS, the Brent Berry Food Drive's mission to help others was inspired by the childhood of Bucky Berry, who grew up in an impoverished family that relied on the aid of charitable organizations and food pantries; to date, the Berry family and their dedicated volunteers have helped feed some 32,000 families; and

WHEREAS, each year, the Brent Berry Food Drive collects thousands of food items and baby and hygiene products to benefit the Harrisonburg Salvation Army's food pantry; working rain or shine, the members of the Berry family hand out lists of suggested items to shoppers at supermarkets and then receive the donations when the customers leave the store; and

WHEREAS, the Brent Berry Food Drive receives assistance from students at James Madison University as well as local businesses and members of the Harrisonburg Fire Department, the Harrisonburg Police Department, and the Rockingham County Sheriff's Office; and

WHEREAS, during twice-yearly collections at supermarkets, the Brent Berry Food Drive routinely receives over \$10,000 worth of food donations in only a few days; in October 2017, the Berry family also organized an emergency food drive after the Salvation Army's food pantry began running low; and

WHEREAS, during its decade in operation, the Brent Berry Food Drive has marshaled the generosity of the Harrisonburg community and helped improve the lives of numerous families in need; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Brent Berry Food Drive for its volunteers' valuable service to the community on the occasion of its 10th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Berry family, the organizers of the Brent Berry Food Drive, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for their tireless efforts to help feed Harrisonburg residents in need.

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