

2018 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 525

Commending Refuge Nation Church.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 7, 2018
Agreed to by the Senate, March 9, 2018

WHEREAS, for 10 years, Refuge Nation Church, under the leadership of Pastor Joe Baker, has touched countless lives in Newport News by meeting the spiritual needs of the community in a joyful, supportive environment; and

WHEREAS, Refuge Nation Church provides a unique, welcoming environment in a casual atmosphere for people to grow stronger in their faith and receive Biblical teachings that incorporate real-life experiences; and

WHEREAS, Joe Baker established Refuge Nation Church after more than 20 years at Messiah Center in Hampton, where he served as youth pastor and started a thriving youth group; and

WHEREAS, since the formation of Refuge Nation Church, Joe Baker has been recognized as one of the most influential spiritual leaders in Hampton Roads by *Blessed Magazine*, and he is pursuing a master's degree in theology from the North Carolina College of Theology; and

WHEREAS, with his ability to easily relate to diverse groups of people, Joe Baker has overseen the creation of many valuable ministries at Refuge Nation Church, including men's and women's ministries, where men and women of all ages can grow in spirit, and a marriage ministry that supports strong, healthy families; and

WHEREAS, Refuge Nation Church places a high emphasis on supporting youths and developing their potential through its Kingdom Kids program, where children can learn about God in fun, exciting ways, and the Y.E.L.L. Youth Group for teenagers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Refuge Nation Church for its years of service to the Newport News community on the occasion of its 10th anniversary in 2018; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Joe Baker, senior pastor of Refuge Nation Church, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration.

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