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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 278

Offered February 20, 2020

Commending Matteo Lambert.

Patrons—Plum and Keam

WHEREAS, Matteo Lambert, a student at Louise Archer Elementary School in Vienna, ran over 120 miles in 2019 in support of children battling cancer; and

WHEREAS, Matteo Lambert ran his first race when he was seven years old at his school and soon after began raising funds to honor his grandfather and other prostate cancer survivors, an experience that compelled him to find more ways to make a difference in the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, Matteo Lambert ran for Hopecam, an organization that aims to overcome the social isolation experienced by children receiving treatment for cancer by connecting them with their classmates through web-enabled technologies; and

WHEREAS, by running 33 different races between five and 10 kilometers in distance from March to November 2019, Matteo Lambert raised over \$65,000 in support of Hopecam's mission, helping about 70 children stay connected with hundreds of friends and classmates throughout treatment and remain positive during a difficult time in their lives; and

WHEREAS, each race, Matteo Lambert wore a cape with the name and photo of a child in the Hopecam program; he presented these capes and all the medals he won to children with cancer while referring to his record-setting running times as belonging to the sick children from whom he borrowed "superpowers"; and

WHEREAS, Matteo Lambert has run on behalf of numerous heroic children, including Andrew, Baylee, Benjamin, Blake, Bradley, Brentton, Dalton, Derreon, Ella, Elyssia, Fletcher, Gabriela, Grace, Gray, Harper, Jack, Jackson, Jeremy, Jonah, Luca, Lucas, Maddie, Mathias, Naomi, Nate, Poppy, Quinn, Scout, Sofia, Tabitha, Tucker, and Wyatt; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his running project with Hopecam, Matteo Lambert has raised awareness of heroic children through his documentary films, recently earning recognition from the National Parent Teacher Association for his film about Tommy Morrissey, a young golf champion born with one arm; and

WHEREAS, Matteo Lambert has demonstrated great selflessness and concern for others and offered an example of how hard work and perseverance can have a positive impact on one's community regardless of age; and

WHEREAS, Matteo Lambert courageously took to a large stage and delivered, without notes, a TED Talk to spread his message that there are no age requirements to help others; and

WHEREAS, at the age of nine, Matteo Lambert has founded the "Off The Charts Club," a nonprofit that supports kids with cancer and encourages youth to use their passion toward helping others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Matteo Lambert, an inspiring young athlete and filmmaker from Vienna, for his efforts to champion his peers in need; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Matteo Lambert as an expression of the General Assembly's wholehearted admiration and profound respect for his dedication and service to others.

INTRODUCED

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