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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 308

Offered February 24, 2020

*Commending Zyahna Bryant.*

Patron—McQuinn

WHEREAS, Zyahna Bryant of Charlottesville has worked diligently to fight injustice and inequality as a student activist and community organizer; and

WHEREAS, Zyahna Bryant began her career as an activist at the age of 12, when she organized a rally to protest police violence against African Americans; and

WHEREAS, in the spring of 2015, Zyahna Bryant spoke in support of increased funding for public education as a panelist at a town hall meeting and subsequently established and served as founding chair of the Black Student Union at Charlottesville High School; and

WHEREAS, at the age of 15, Zyahna Bryant petitioned the Charlottesville City Council to rename what was then Lee Park and remove the statue of Robert E. Lee from the park; and

WHEREAS, Zyahna Bryant continues to encourage and empower her fellow young people to respond to racial discrimination and inequality, placing strong emphasis on addressing the achievement gap in education for students of color; and

WHEREAS, Zyahna Bryant has been featured in *The New York Times*, *National Geographic*, *The New Yorker*, and *Teen Vogue* and on VICE News, CNN, PBS, and BET, and in 2019, she published the book *Reclaim.: A Collection of Poetry and Essays*; and

WHEREAS, Zyahna Bryant currently serves as the youngest member of the Virginia African American Advisory Board and a member of the University of Virginia President's Council on UVA-Community Partnerships and the Charlottesville Youth Council; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Zyahna Bryant, a highly admired youth leader in Charlottesville; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Zyahna Bryant as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for her contributions to youth engagement in social justice.

INTRODUCED

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