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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 343

Offered February 26, 2020

Commending the Reverend Dr. Peter G. James.

Patrons—Keam; Senator: Petersen

WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. Peter G. James, beloved senior pastor at Vienna Presbyterian Church, is retiring in 2020 after four decades leading the congregation; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. Peter "Pete" G. James studied the scriptures for many years prior to his pastorship, earning a bachelor's degree in religion from Ohio Wesleyan University, a master of divinity degree from the Gordon Conwell Seminary, and a doctorate in ministry from Union Presbyterian Seminary; and

WHEREAS, prior to joining Vienna Presbyterian Church, Pete James was a campus minister and football coach at Thiel College, providing spiritual mentorship to countless young people at a pivotal time in their lives; and

WHEREAS, Pete James joined Vienna Presbyterian Church as an associate pastor in 1979, ready to make a positive impact on the lives of those in his community; and

WHEREAS, the congregation's senior pastor since 1986, Pete James has shepherded Vienna Presbyterian Church through a tremendous period of growth over the past 30 years; and

WHEREAS, the congregation at Vienna Presbyterian Church has doubled during Pete James' tenure and, with over 2,600 members today, represents the largest Presbyterian church in the Washington, D.C., area; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, Pete James has led capital campaigns to allow Vienna Presbyterian Church to expand its facilities and accommodate the educational and fellowship needs of its burgeoning flock; and

WHEREAS, today, along with the prayer service that Pete James leads each week, Vienna Presbyterian Church offers extensive Bible study, fellowship, volunteer, and support opportunities for its members, as well as numerous local, national, and international mission programs; and

WHEREAS, along with his work with Vienna Presbyterian Church, Pete James has planted three churches in Northern Virginia and taught at the Gordon Conwell Seminary, where he will remain an active instructor in his retirement; and

WHEREAS, for over 40 years, Pete James has provided spiritual leadership and opportunities for joyful worship to thousands of members of the Vienna community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Reverend Dr. Peter G. James, longtime senior pastor at Vienna Presbyterian Church, on the occasion of his retirement; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Reverend Dr. Peter G. James as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for his commitment to the citizens of the Town of Vienna and the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED

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