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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 498

Offered March 2, 2020

Commending Jessica Berg.

Patrons—Subramanyam; Senators: Bell, Boysko and Favola

WHEREAS, Jessica Berg, an English teacher at Rock Ridge High School in Loudoun County, organized the first "Rise to Summit" event, a program for empowering the world's next generation of leaders, on March 23, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Jessica Berg earned a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Virginia, worked in the publishing industry, and returned to school earning a master's degree in education from George Mason University before embarking on a career in education; and

WHEREAS, Jessica Berg has taught in Loudoun County Public Schools for the past nine years, including five with Rock Ridge High School, where she has positively impacted many students' lives by helping them engage with inspirational and thought-provoking literature; and

WHEREAS, promoting inclusion and diversity in her classroom, Jessica Berg founded the Ms. Phoenix Organization and wrote curriculum for a women's studies course, which is now taught at three schools in Loudoun County; and

WHEREAS, following a trip to Girl Talk 2018 in South Africa, an event that featured women grappling with the challenges and prejudices they face every day, Jessica Berg was motivated to bring a similar educational initiative to Loudoun County, leading to the creation of the "Rise to Summit" event; and

WHEREAS, the second annual "Rise to Summit" event will be held on March 21, 2020, at Rock Ridge High School, fostering a tradition that will promote greater understanding and awareness among the school's students and embolden them to be exemplary leaders of tomorrow; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Jessica Berg, an English teacher at Rock Ridge High School, for her role in creating the school's "Rise to Summit" event; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Jessica Berg as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for her achievements and best wishes for her continued success.

INTRODUCED

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