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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 737

Offered February 16, 2023

*Commending the James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener Association.*

Patrons—Mullin and Batten; Senators: Mason and Norment

WHEREAS, the James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener Association, a volunteer-driven nonprofit organization that supports the outreach mission of the Virginia Cooperative Extension in Williamsburg and the Counties of James City and New Kent, celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Extension Master Gardener Program was established in 1972 in the state of Washington and has since spread to all 50 states and the District of Columbia, four Canadian provinces, and South Korea, operating in the Commonwealth through the Virginia Cooperative Extension and master gardener associations like the James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener Association (JCCWMGA); and

WHEREAS, the JCCWMGA is instrumental to the Virginia Cooperative Extension's efforts to enhance horticultural practices and land and resource management in the Commonwealth by providing members of the community with reliable information on how to maintain healthy and sustainable landscapes around their homes and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the JCCWMGA offers a wide variety of outreach and educational programs to share its expertise with the public, including clinics on turf and lawn management, landscaping, and plant disease; therapeutic gardening activities; its extension help desk; and a range of gardening projects for children; and

WHEREAS, the JCCWMGA endeavors to improve and protect local watersheds by promoting responsible water use and other conservation practices, fostering the vitality of the region for the benefit of future generations; and

WHEREAS, the accomplishments of the JCCWMGA have been made possible by its more than 200 master gardeners, who give generously of their time to educate the public in the areas of sustainable horticulture and environmental stewardship, including instruction on appropriate plant selection and efficient irrigation and fertilization methods; and

WHEREAS, the JCCWMGA and the Virginia Cooperative Extension help researchers at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and Virginia State University share their knowledge and new findings with everyday gardeners, cultivating a more beautiful and environmentally sound Commonwealth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener Association, an educational gardening program of the Virginia Cooperative Extension serving Williamsburg and the Counties of James City and New Kent, on the occasion of the organization's 40th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener Association as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the organization's legacy of service in the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED

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