

## 2008 SESSION

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### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 528

Offered February 28, 2008

*Commending Sarasi Jayaratne.*

Patrons—Poisson; Senator: Herring

WHEREAS, Sarasi Jayaratne, a resident of Sterling and a student at Potomac Falls High School, has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service by receiving a 2008 Prudential Spirit of Community Award; and

WHEREAS, this prestigious award presented by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals honors young volunteers across America who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to serving their communities; and

WHEREAS, Sarasi Jayaratne earned this award by creating the Keep Reading Foundation, which accepts donations of books written in English from churches, schools, libraries, individuals, and other community resources and ships them to Sri Lanka, so the children there can continue their study of the English language; and

WHEREAS, since its creation, the Keep Reading Foundation has shipped over 8,000 books to rural villages of Sri Lanka to help build 15 small school libraries; and

WHEREAS, in August 2007, Sarasi Jayaratne and her mother traveled to Sri Lanka to personally deliver many of the books she collected and while there taught English in several of Sri Lanka's poorest schools; and

WHEREAS, Sarasi Jayaratne is a great example of how a young person can take an idea and make a huge impact on the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, the success of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon the dedication of young people like Sarasi Jayaratne who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend and congratulate Sarasi Jayaratne as a recipient of a Prudential Spirit of Community Award; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Sarasi Jayaratne as an expression of the General Assembly's gratitude for her outstanding record of volunteer service, peer leadership, and community spirit and her efforts to improve the quality of life of the citizens of Sri Lanka.

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