

2011 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 765

Offered January 28, 2011

Commending Niki Swann.

Patron—Pollard

WHEREAS, Niki Swann was crowned Ms. Wheelchair Virginia 2010 - 2011 at the Ms. Wheelchair Virginia Title Event held on March 27, 2010, at the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center in Fishersville; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Ms. Wheelchair Virginia program is to raise awareness of the abilities and needs of the disabled community through education and advocacy in order to influence attitudinal, architectural, and social change for all Virginians; and

WHEREAS, Niki Swann has been using a wheelchair since the age of 16 when she suffered a spinal cord injury in a motor vehicle accident; as she adjusted to her disability and developed skills in living independently, she has sought to help others overcome obstacles with the motto of "Accept No Boundaries"; and

WHEREAS, as Ms. Wheelchair Virginia, Niki Swann travels across the Commonwealth promoting her platform of "Breaking Down Stereotypes to Build Opportunities" and raising awareness of issues confronting people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, an extremely motivated and accomplished woman, Niki Swann received a bachelor's degree from Longwood University and is currently working on a master's degree in English literature at Virginia Commonwealth University; and

WHEREAS, Niki Swann received a prestigious Virginia Community College System Chancellor's Fellowship, which is awarded to graduate students seeking teaching experience at a local community college; she currently teaches composition at Rappahannock Community College; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished public speaker, Niki Swann has spoken at numerous events and conferences around the state, sharing her experiences and insight with various organizations and individuals; and

WHEREAS, an inspiring and talented woman, Niki Swann represents her community and the Commonwealth with great enthusiasm and dedication; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend Niki Swann on her selection as Ms. Wheelchair Virginia 2010 - 2011; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Niki Swann as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations, respect, and admiration for her work on behalf of people with disabilities.

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