

# 2016 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21

Offered January 13, 2016

Prefiled December 7, 2015

*Commending Molly Michael.*

Patrons—Webert; Senator: Vogel

WHEREAS, Molly Michael of Warrenton completed a 10,000-mile motorcycle ride, The Long Ride Home, across the United States and Canada, raising thousands of dollars to benefit convalescent veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Arizona State University, Molly Michael is an avid traveler who has visited every continent except Antarctica; growing up in a military family, she understood well the struggles and sacrifices of the nation's veterans; and

WHEREAS, Molly Michael and her mother, Laurie Enright, established The Long Ride Home to support and raise awareness for Boulder Crest Retreat for Military and Veteran Wellness, a nonprofit rural sanctuary in Bluemont that offers free accommodations, recreational activities, and therapy to veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, Molly Michael began The Long Ride Home on May 25, 2015—Memorial Day—envisioning the ride as a metaphorical representation of the long and often painful journey returning veterans face while recovering from wounds and reintegrating into civilian life; and

WHEREAS, The Long Ride Home took Molly Michael from Tempe, Arizona, to Alaska, back through Canada, and across the United States to finish at Molly's Irish Pub in Warrenton on September 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, during The Long Ride Home, Molly Michael passed through 16 national parks, numerous military and public safety memorials, and several veterans' hospitals and support centers; and

WHEREAS, Molly Michael succeeded in raising national awareness for veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, of whom more than 52,000 have been wounded in action and more than 30 percent suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Molly Michael for her work to raise funds and awareness for convalescent veterans and their families through The Long Ride Home; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Molly Michael as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for her dedicated support for veterans in the Commonwealth and throughout the United States.

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