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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 218

Offered January 27, 2016

Commending Angela West.

Patrons—Spruill, Bagby, Carr, Heretick, Herring, Hester, Hope, Knight, Kory, Krizek, Leftwich, Lindsey, Marshall, D.W., Rasoul, Simon and Ware; Senators: Alexander, Deeds, Ebbin, Edwards, Favola, Howell, McEachin, Stuart and Wexton

WHEREAS, Angela West was crowned Ms. Wheelchair Virginia 2015 - 2016 at the Ms. Wheelchair Virginia pageant held on March 21, 2015, at the Wilson Workforce and 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 members of the disabled community through education and advocacy, in order to influence attitudinal, architectural, and social change for all Virginians; and

WHEREAS, due to cerebral palsy, Angela West has been using a wheelchair since birth, when doctors reported that it would be impossible for her to attend school and become employed; she has broken down barriers for herself and others, developed the skills to live independently, and sought to help others overcome obstacles with the motto of "Be the Change You Want to See"; and

WHEREAS, as Ms. Wheelchair Virginia, Angela West has traveled across the Commonwealth, promoting her platform of "Empowering the Ability in Disability" and encouraging people with and without disabilities to be active in their communities; and

WHEREAS, an extremely motivated and accomplished woman, Angela West received a bachelor's degree from Old Dominion University and a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling at Virginia Commonwealth University; and

WHEREAS, Angela West received a prestigious Nikki Ard award, which is awarded to a state delegate at Ms. Wheelchair America for her advocacy work; she currently works at Virginia Commonwealth University, Partnership for People with Disabilities, as the Asian Cultural Broker; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished public speaker, Angela West has spoken at numerous events and schools around the Commonwealth, sharing her experiences and insights with various organizations and individuals; and

WHEREAS, an inspiring and talented woman, Angela West represents her community and the Commonwealth with grace, enthusiasm, and dedication; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Angela West on her selection as Ms. Wheelchair Virginia 2015 - 2016; and, be it

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

INTRODUCED

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