

2018 SESSION

INTRODUCED

18101403D

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 152

Offered January 22, 2018

Commending Nischelle Buffalow.

Patrons—Hayes, Convirs-Fowler, James, Jones, S.C., Knight and Leftwich; Senators: Spruill, Cosgrove and Lucas

WHEREAS, Nischelle Buffalow of Chesapeake was honored as the 2017 Woman of the Year by the Women's Division of the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce Chesapeake; and

WHEREAS, over the last eight years, Nischelle Buffalow has helped feed hundreds of Chesapeake residents in need with her annual Thanksgiving community dinner; as the founder of the nonprofit organization, Buffalow Family and Friends Community Days, she has spearheaded numerous charitable initiatives, including food and clothing drives and back-to-school health care programs for children; and

WHEREAS, a native of the Chesapeake area, Nischelle Buffalow attended Indian River High School and studied accounting at Norfolk State University; she began her yearly Thanksgiving dinner for the less fortunate in 2010, when she learned that soup kitchens and churches typically did not serve meals on Thanksgiving; and

WHEREAS, after rallying the support of her family and friends, Nischelle Buffalow served around 30 people at her first Thanksgiving dinner; the event has grown each year since then, attracting 100 people in 2011 and around 400 in 2016; and

WHEREAS, as her Thanksgiving dinner has increased in popularity, Nischelle Buffalow has added new programs to further benefit the community; she started offering free donated clothing to diners, and in 2014, she added Thanksgiving meal deliveries for the elderly; and

WHEREAS, in preparation for each Thanksgiving dinner, Nischelle Buffalow, her family, and her hardworking volunteers spend several days gathering food and preparing meals; while donations cover some of the costs, the Buffalow family still spends as much as \$1,000 of their own money on the dinner each year; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, Nischelle Buffalow expanded her philanthropic efforts by founding the Buffalow Family and Friends Community Days organization; the group's activities include a summer meals program for children, a back-to-school fair with immunizations and dental and health screenings, and the Warm and Fuzzy Program, which distributes blankets, winter clothing, and food baskets to needy children; and

WHEREAS, Nischelle Buffalow will be honored at the Women's Division of the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce Chesapeake's annual Woman of the Year banquet on February 10, 2018, at the Chesapeake Conference Center; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Nischelle Buffalow for being named the 2017 Woman of the Year by the Women's Division of the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce Chesapeake; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Nischelle Buffalow as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for her many accomplishments and efforts to make Chesapeake one of the Commonwealth's outstanding communities.

INTRODUCED

HJ152