

## 2019 SESSION

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### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 944

Offered February 12, 2019

*Commending the Silent Children's Garden.*

Patrons—Price, Mullin and Yancey; Senators: Locke and Mason

WHEREAS, in 2019, the Silent Children's Garden in Newport News marked its 10th Anniversary of bringing community awareness to Child Abuse Prevention Month each April; and

WHEREAS, the Silent Children's Garden and the Blue Ribbon Campaign began in 2009 to support Child Abuse Prevention Month and were formed under the Newport News Department of Human Services; and

WHEREAS, numerous organizations are involved in the Silent Children's Garden, including Newport News Public Schools, Unity Works, Smart Beginnings, The Woman's Club of Newport News, the Newport News Juvenile Court Services Unit, Newport News Parks and Recreation, and the city's public library system; children's groups are involved in the opening event as well; and

WHEREAS, the Silent Children's Garden is a display of 2,000 blue and silver pinwheels symbolizing the happy and healthy childhood every person deserves, along with large colorful silhouettes of children; and

WHEREAS, speakers at the Silent Children's Garden opening event emphasize to parents, caregivers, and anyone involved in a child's life ways to give every child a great childhood; the focus is on positive things parents can do and how everyone can help children in the community; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the Silent Children's Garden opening ceremony will take place on April 10 at Boulevard Park in Newport News with Mayor McKinley L. Price reading the proclamation declaring April as Child Abuse Prevention Month; the event aims to inspire, to bring awareness to the community, and to emphasize that every community member has a role in making childhood a positive experience; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Silent Children's Garden on the occasion of its 10th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Newport News Department of Human Services, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the Silent Children's Garden's mission to raise awareness about the harm of child abuse and the community's role in child abuse prevention.

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