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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 498**

Offered January 16, 2025

*Designating April 6, in 2025 and in each succeeding year, as Kindness Day in Virginia.*

Patron—Green

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, Joshua Chamberlain Peck was born on April 6, 2012, near Ramstein Air Base in Germany, and as the child of a military family, he traveled often and developed an appreciation for other cultures before settling in Williamsburg; and

WHEREAS, Joshua "Josh" Peck exemplified the ideals of lifelong learning, personal integrity, and servant-leadership, leaving an indelible mark on all who had the privilege of knowing him; and

WHEREAS, Josh Peck touched countless lives while exploring passions in swimming, cooking, playing guitar, Cub Scouts, photography, and researching old technology, airplanes, and vintage Volkswagens; and

WHEREAS, Josh Peck was a cherished member of the community at Laurel Lane Elementary School, where he inspired teachers, staff, and fellow students through his compassion and personal mission to make a difference in the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, Josh Peck died tragically in December 2022, but left behind an inspirational legacy of kindness to family members, friends, and the entire Williamsburg community; and

WHEREAS, Laurel Lane Elementary School has honored Josh Peck's memory by establishing Josh's Kindness Squad, an initiative that has inspired thousands of student-led service hours through small acts of kindness, such as writing encouraging notes, making posters to thank bus drivers, delivering hot chocolate and snacks to school staff, and building gardens; and

WHEREAS, April 6, Josh Peck's birthday, provides an opportunity for Virginians to demonstrate kindness in their everyday interactions and find ways to enhance the lives of others through volunteer service or other simple acts of fellowship and compassion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly designate April 6, in 2025 and in each succeeding year, as Kindness Day in Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit a copy of this resolution to the family of Joshua Chamberlain Peck so that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates post the designation of this day on the General Assembly's website.