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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 388

Offered February 1, 2000

*On the death of Marta Villalpando Wyatt.*

Patrons—Hull, Almand, Amundson, Black, Brink, Callahan, Darner, Dillard, Marshall, McClure, McQuigg, Moran, O'Brien, Plum, Rollison, Scott, Van Landingham and Watts; Senators: Barry, Byrne, Colgan, Howell, Mims, Puller, Saslaw, Ticer and Whipple

WHEREAS, Marta Villalpando Wyatt of Fairfax City, a leader of and advocate for Northern Virginia's Hispanic community, died on May 28, 1999; and

WHEREAS, born in Baltimore, Marta Wyatt grew up near Mexico City and graduated from the Universidad Iberoamericana in 1964 with a degree in philosophy; and

WHEREAS, Marta Wyatt moved to Northern Virginia in 1964, where she quickly became involved in the local Hispanic community, serving as Hispanic services director for the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington from 1985 to 1989; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, Marta Wyatt became director of the Hispanic Committee of Virginia, a nonprofit organization that assists Hispanics with immigration problems, emergency aid, and employment and housing needs; and

WHEREAS, under Marta Wyatt's leadership, the Hispanic Committee grew into a powerful and influential voice for Hispanics, with a budget exceeding \$1 million annually and a staff of 21; and

WHEREAS, an exceptionally effective advocate for Hispanic causes and issues, Marta Wyatt combined a strong will with a gentle manner, a powerful voice with a nonconfrontational style, to become one of the most influential and respected leaders in the Hispanic community; and

WHEREAS, Marta Wyatt often became personally involved in helping individuals, as when she led the effort to raise \$60,000 for a bone marrow transplant for the baby of a local Salvadoran couple; and

WHEREAS, Marta Wyatt was equally effective in her official capacity, persuading Fairfax County to restore its grant to the Hispanic Committee by pointing out that her group was more efficient than the county's similar operation; and

WHEREAS, a remarkably capable, generous, and popular leader, Marta Wyatt will be sorely missed by the Hispanic community of Northern Virginia on whose behalf she worked with such passion and effectiveness; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly note with great sadness the loss of an invaluable citizen of Virginia, Marta Villalpando Wyatt; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare copies of this resolution for presentation to the family of Marta Villalpando Wyatt and to the Hispanic Committee of Virginia in honor of her life of dedication to her family and to the Northern Virginia Hispanic community.

INTRODUCED

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