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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, employment and housing needs; and

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

WHEREAS, often personally involved in helping individuals in her community, Marta Wyatt 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 efficient and accomplished Hispanic Committee; and

WHEREAS, a remarkably capable, generous, and popular leader, Marta Wyatt will be sadly 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 Marta Villalpando Wyatt, an invaluable citizen of the Commonwealth of Virginia; and, be it

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

ENGROSSED

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