

2001 SESSION

ENGROSSED

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 721

Offered January 10, 2001

Prefiled January 10, 2001

Commending the Daughters of Charity.

Patrons—Joannou, Black, Callahan, Devolites, Hamilton, Marshall, McDonnell, Moran, O'Brien, Tata, Thomas and Van Yahres

WHEREAS, following 124 years of meritorious service to the children of the city of Portsmouth, the last two teaching nuns from the Daughters of Charity have retired and moved away; and

WHEREAS, the first Daughters of Charity came to the Portsmouth area as nurses during the Civil War, and a few stayed on to open the first Catholic school in the city of Portsmouth, St. Joseph's Academy, in 1876; and

WHEREAS, for the last part of the nineteenth century and all of the twentieth century, the Daughters of Charity have played a major role in the educational and spiritual lives of the city of Portsmouth; and

WHEREAS, through expansion, consolidation, and integration of Portsmouth's Catholic schools, the Daughters of Charity have been a constant presence, teaching and improving the lives of thousands of young people; and

WHEREAS, in 1930 when coeducation was adopted by the schools, the Daughters of Charity assumed the staffing of both the elementary and high schools; and

WHEREAS, in 1940 the Daughters of Charity opened Our Lady of Victory in Portsmouth for the city's African-American students, and, to make it affordable, charged a small fraction of the normal tuition; and

WHEREAS, throughout 124 years of working tirelessly and selflessly on behalf of the young, the poor, and the oppressed, the Daughters of Charity have well lived up to the motto of their order: "Ordinary women on an extraordinary mission"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend the Daughters of Charity for their many years of exceptional service to the city of Portsmouth; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Daughters of Charity as an expression of the General Assembly's gratitude for their many contributions to the citizens of Portsmouth and the Commonwealth.

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