

2006 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 510

Offered March 6, 2006

Commending Bensley Elementary School on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

Patron—Jones, D.C.

WHEREAS, Bensley Elementary School, a Chesterfield County Public School, celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2005; and

WHEREAS, it is not at all unusual for students to have parents and grandparents who attended Bensley, a dynamic child-centered and community-supported elementary school; and

WHEREAS, in 2005 Bensley Elementary School celebrated its 50th anniversary with numerous exciting events and festivities, including an international tasting fair featuring food and cultural exhibits and a PTA family picnic; and

WHEREAS, Bensley Elementary School is a K-5 school with an enrollment of approximately 617 students located in the Historic Village of Bensley in Chesterfield County with students who reside in Park Lee Apartments, Meadowdale Apartments, Shady Hill Trailer Park, Bellwood Maisonettes, and the Bensley residential area; and

WHEREAS, Bensley Elementary School has outstanding teachers and staff, many bilingual, and the school newsletter is printed in English and Spanish, and longtime community partners include the University of Richmond and the Defense Supply Center of Richmond; and

WHEREAS, Bensley Elementary School has been fully accredited since 2001, under Virginia's rigorous Standards of Learning, and has a Head Start class for four-year-olds; and

WHEREAS, Bensley Elementary School has been honored with several notable national awards, including selection as a Distinguished Title I School based on its high test scores and as one of six schools to receive a Fordham University School Change Award based, in part, on the school's modeling of the Comer school development program; and

WHEREAS, in 2005 Bensley was one of five high-performing elementary schools chosen to participate in a Virginia best practice study by the National Center for Educational Accountability; and

WHEREAS, Bensley Elementary School's administration and staff work hard to realize their mission "to educate our children to succeed as responsible citizens in a technologically advanced and diverse society"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend and congratulate Bensley Elementary School on the occasion of its 50th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Principal Bessie Cooper on behalf of Bensley Elementary School as an expression of the General Assembly's gratitude for its dedication to the young people of Chesterfield County.

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