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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 957**

Offered February 21, 2011

*Commending Walt Whitman Middle School on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.*

Patrons—Surovell, Albo and Sickles; Senators: Puller and Ticer

WHEREAS, in 2011 Walt Whitman Middle School of Fairfax County will celebrate 50 years of providing quality education to the students of Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, opened in 1961 with 1,066 students, Walt Whitman Middle School relocated two years later and again in 1985 to its present-day location; and

WHEREAS, Walt Whitman Middle School has a large and diverse student body and serves many students from military families due to its proximity to Fort Belvoir, the Pentagon, and other major Department of Defense facilities; and

WHEREAS, Walt Whitman Middle School strives to meet the needs of its students through many innovative programs, practices, and strategies while encouraging positive attitudes toward learning and preparing students to find their place in an era of globalization; and

WHEREAS, an International Baccalaureate World School since 2003, Walt Whitman Middle School offers the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme, which helps students bridge the gap between subject matter studies and real-world applications; and

WHEREAS, Walt Whitman Middle School provides learning disabilities specialists who give essential support to students with learning disabilities, a 12-week exploratory wheel for seventh grade students, an English for Speakers of Other Languages program, character education, and extended academic days; and

WHEREAS, Walt Whitman Middle School students also have the opportunity to participate in the Science Olympiad and attend standards of learning preparation sessions; and

WHEREAS, Walt Whitman Middle School students receive excellent instruction from a team of professional educators who share a strong commitment to helping their students excel in all their endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Walt Whitman Middle School recognizes the vital role that parents and community partners play in the lives of students and has a strong parent teacher association and partnership with the 12th Aviation Battalion of Fort Belvoir; and

WHEREAS, students of Walt Whitman Middle School go on to achieve great success in life and work; the Commonwealth's own Governor Robert F. McDonnell attended the school for seventh and eighth grades; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend Walt Whitman Middle 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 Jean Bell, principal of Walt Whitman Middle School, as an expression of the General Assembly's appreciation for the school's commitment to the young people of Alexandria.

INTRODUCED

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